

## IN THIS ISSUE...

### State Overview

Unemployment Rate .....	1, 2
Labor Force .....	3
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs.....	5
Economic Indicators .....	6

### Panhandle.....7

### Seaport.....9

Washington State

Minimum Wage .....	9
--------------------	---

### Treasure Valley ..... 11

Rural Idaho Forum.....	11
------------------------	----

### Magic Valley.....15

### Southeast.....17

Holiday Jobs .....	17
--------------------	----

### Northeast.....19

Construction Activity .....	20
-----------------------------	----

### F.Y.I.

Idaho Employment Survey .....	21
-------------------------------	----

A "Year-in-Review" Poem .....	27
-------------------------------	----

### Glossary.....28

## State Overview

### LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS

*Labor force details for the state, labor market areas, counties, and major cities can be found in State Table 1 on page 3.*

Idaho's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2001 was 4.9 percent, unchanged from the previous month. The October 2001 rate is nearly the same as the October 2000 rate of 4.8 percent. The September-to-October monthly change was the same for both years; there was no change. In fact, the pattern of monthly changes in the unemployment rates during the first ten months of both years has been remarkably similar in that monthly rate increases, decreases, or no changes have occurred at the same time period. In addition, the unemployment rate for a given month in both years is almost the same. The exception to this trend is the January and February 2001 rates, which are five-tenths of a percentage point below the rates for the same months in 2000. For the other months, the year-over-year comparisons did not exceed a two-tenths of a percentage point differential.

Because the unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed persons who are in the *Civilian Labor Force*, the rate can mask changes in the numerical estimates of *Total Employment* and *Unemployment* which, when added together, determine the labor force estimate. The October 2001 seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* was 688,600. This is an increase of 900 persons from September 2001. This net increase resulted from a 900 person increase in *Total Employment* accompanied by no change in *Unemployment* from September.

The labor force changes from October 2000 show that Idaho's *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 25,300 persons, or 3.8 percent. From one year ago, the number of persons employed was up 23,800 or 3.8 percent. The number of persons unemployed increased by 1,500 or 4.7 percent.

Idaho's October 2001 labor force estimates indicate the state was still at historically high employment levels and that the unemployment rate was within the 2001 monthly rate range. However, this doesn't mean there are not concerns about current or future Idaho labor market conditions.

One immediate concern has been the effect of the tragic events of September 11. Nationally, the unemployment rate increased by five-tenths of a percentage point from September to October. The nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 5.4 percent, the highest rate since December 1996. Analysts think this upward spike was due in part to the terrorist attacks although the labor market had been weakening before the attacks. It is likely most of the post-event analyses will focus on job losses by industry and not on the labor force statistics of employment and unemployment, which are counts of people, not jobs.

The Idaho Division of Financial Management has made some preliminary estimates of Idaho job loss due to the terrorist attacks. The estimated job loss for the remainder of 2001 is about 320. For the next three years, yearly job losses might be in the 2,000 to 2,800 range. Readers are encouraged to view these estimates in the October 2001 *Idaho Economic Forecast*, which is available on the Internet at [http://www.state.id.us/dfm/econ\\_pub.html](http://www.state.id.us/dfm/econ_pub.html).

### NEWS UPDATE. . .

The 2000 Affirmative Action statistics for Idaho are available on our website at <http://www.labor.state.id.us/lmi/affact/aamenu.htm>

## AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Labor force statistics are calculated for eight multi-county Labor Market Areas (LMA). The LMAs and their component counties are listed in State Table 1 (page 4). The eight LMAs include: Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Pocatello City MSA, Bonneville LMA, Cassia-Minidoka LMA, Idaho-Lewis LMA, Magic Valley LMA, Panhandle LMA, and Seaport LMA.

While the statewide October unemployment rate is 4.9 percent, the unemployment rates for some of the labor market areas remain high. The Idaho-Lewis LMA once again had the highest unemployment rate at 7.6 percent, seasonally adjusted. The current rate is below September's rate of 8.0 percent and 9.4 percent experienced in October 2000. Although just a few more than 600 people were unemployed in this two-county area, the high rate is consistent with the persistent economic condition in this area that is heavily dependent upon the forest products industries.

Another northern Idaho LMA with a high unemployment rate in October was the Panhandle region at 7.5 percent, seasonally adjusted. In September, the Panhandle unemployment rate was 7.6 percent. However, in September 2000 the unemployment rate was 8.6 percent. The five northernmost counties of Idaho comprise this region with Kootenai County dominating the employment numbers. The Panhandle LMA has the second largest civilian labor force of all LMAs. This region is quite dependent upon forest products industries as well as mining. Both of these industries have experienced substantial layoffs during 2001.

The state's largest LMA, Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), has not had the lowest unemployment rate in an LMA since March. The October seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise MSA was 4.3 percent, slightly up from 4.2 in September. Compared to a year ago, the Boise City MSA unemployment increased by one full percent—from 3.3 percent in 2000 to 4.3 percent in 2001. While this is not an extremely high unemployment rate, the large number of layoffs in the electronics industry since March has had a dramatic impact on the rate. The unemployment rate was at its lowest level in January at 2.8 percent, 1.5 percentage points below the current level.

The Bonneville LMA, which includes Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, and Jefferson counties, had an unemployment rate of 3.2 percent in October. This LMA has experienced the lowest unemployment rate among LMAs since April 2000 when the Boise MSA rate began to increase because of the numerous layoffs in that area.

The Seaport and Magic Valley LMAs also had unemployment rates 4.0 percent or below in October. The Seaport LMA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October was 3.9 percent, unchanged from September but down considerably from 5.5 percent in October 2000. There was a yearly increase of 1,000 in the employment estimate and a 500-person decrease in the unemployment estimate. The Magic Valley LMA experienced a 4.0 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October. This rate was higher than the 3.8 percent rate in September but below the 4.4 percent experienced in September 2000.

## COUNTY LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Three of Idaho's 44 counties had double-digit, seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in October 2001. This compares to four counties with these very high unemployment rates in September 2001 and in October 2000. On the other hand, 11 counties had unemployment rates below 4.0 percent in October 2001, matching the number of low unemployment rates listed for September 2001, but an increase of three counties from October 2000.

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*Or to the Regional Labor Economists noted in each area news section.*

**DIRK KEMPTHORNE, GOVERNOR**

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High unemployment rates are not new to the counties of northern Idaho. With two exceptions, the ten counties north of the Salmon River—the unofficial, traditional dividing line between northern and southern Idaho—have at least a decade's unemployment rate history of double-digit or double the state's average levels. This has occurred not only in the average annual data but also, generally, in the monthly estimates.

The two counties that are the exception to the high unemployment rate norm—Latah and Nez Perce—provide an illustrative contrast about the reasons for either the high or significantly lower rates in Northern Idaho. These two counties are much less dependent upon logging and associated businesses such as sawmills and other wood products manufacturing as are other counties where such businesses are the dominant economic factor. Although Nez Perce County has a very large sawmill and pulp/paper plant in Lewiston, it is modern and requires fewer employees than similar businesses in other Northern Idaho counties that are dependent upon forest products. The two exception counties have a significant agriculture base, a college or university, and more widely diversified economies. Kootenai County, by far the most populated Northern Idaho county, also has a more diversified economy, and tourism is a major economic factor. Although this county's unemployment rates are lower than the other counties in the region, they still run higher than the state's average. Kootenai County still has an important wood products industry, and tourism is quite seasonal and sensitive to Canadian dollar exchange rates. The county's population increased by almost 56 percent during the last decade. This growth rate has outpaced the increase in jobs, adding to a rise in the unemployment rate. Though Shoshone County does not have many people employed in the forest products industry, its high unemployment rate is due to the major decline and almost elimination of mineral mining in the county.

Southern Idaho counties are not immune to double-digit unemployment rates. Again, those counties with a strong reliance on forest products have experienced consistently high unemployment rates. Adams, Lemhi, Valley, and Washington counties are examples of this. Recent sawmill closures and layoffs in Gem and Boise counties will push their unemployment rates higher, although both counties have many residents who commute to the Boise MSA to work.

## AGRICULTURE

October is harvest time for several of Idaho's major field crops: potatoes, sugar beets, and corn for grain. This requires additional workers to operate harvest machinery, sort and cull crops prior to transportation from the field, drive trucks, and receive the harvested crops at processing plants and storage depots.

October also is the time when many tasks associated with the next crop season are undertaken: preparing for fall field work, planting winter wheat, winterizing irriga-

State Table 1: October 2001 Labor Force (preliminary)				
Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
<b>Seaport LMA</b>	34,180	1,260	3.7	32,920
Nez Perce County	22,680	790	3.5	21,890
Asotin County, WA	11,490	460	4.0	11,030
<b>Boise City MSA</b>	253,390	10,940	4.3	242,450
Ada County	183,020	6,930	3.8	176,090
Canyon County	70,370	4,010	5.7	66,360
<b>Pocatello City MSA*</b>	40,490	1,890	4.7	38,600
<b>Bonneville LMA</b>	83,550	2,720	3.3	80,830
Bingham County	22,840	980	4.3	21,860
Bonneville County	48,400	1,390	2.9	47,010
Butte County	1,665	55	3.2	1,610
Jefferson County	10,650	300	2.8	10,350
<b>Cassia-Minidoka LMA</b>	19,840	1,230	6.2	18,610
Cassia County	9,870	590	5.9	9,280
Minidoka County	9,960	640	6.4	9,320
<b>Idaho-Lewis LMA</b>	8,020	610	7.6	7,410
Idaho County	6,410	510	8.0	5,900
Lewis County	1,615	105	6.4	1,510
<b>Panhandle LMA</b>	91,430	6,930	7.6	84,500
Benewah County	4,445	415	9.3	4,030
Bonner County	17,650	1,190	6.7	16,460
Boundary County	4,580	340	7.4	4,240
Kootenai County	58,200	4,450	7.6	53,750
Shoshone County	6,565	545	8.3	6,020
<b>Magic Valley LMA</b>	47,640	1,940	4.1	45,700
Gooding County	6,610	220	3.3	6,390
Jerome County	8,935	375	4.2	8,560
Twin Falls County	32,100	1,350	4.2	30,750
Adams County	1,800	190	10.5	1,610
Bear Lake County	3,020	140	4.6	2,880
Blaine County	12,360	380	3.1	11,980
Boise County	2,855	135	4.7	2,720
Camas County	430	20	5.5	410
Caribou County	3,535	205	5.8	3,330
Clark County	555	20	3.3	535
Clearwater County	3,750	500	13.4	3,250
Custer County	2,230	120	5.4	2,110
Elmore County	9,460	500	5.3	8,960
Franklin County	5,310	180	3.4	5,130
Fremont County	4,610	250	5.5	4,360
Gem County	6,970	700	10.1	6,270
Latah County	14,480	510	3.5	13,970
Lemhi County	3,850	230	5.9	3,620
Lincoln County	1,990	75	3.7	1,915
Madison County	11,410	190	1.7	11,220
Oneida County	1,875	65	3.4	1,810
Owyhee County	4,550	160	3.5	4,390
Payette County	10,490	850	8.1	9,640
Power County	3,470	220	6.4	3,250
Teton County	3,845	75	2.0	3,770
Valley County	4,100	290	7.1	3,810
Washington County	4,705	365	7.8	4,340
<b>State of Idaho</b>	<b>688,680</b>	<b>33,440</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>655,240</b>
<b>Idaho Cities</b>				
Boise	116,030	4,350	3.7	111,680
Coeur d'Alene	20,540	1,220	5.9	19,320
Idaho Falls	29,980	910	3.0	29,070
Lewiston	19,450	600	3.1	18,850
Nampa	21,600	1,370	6.3	20,230
Pocatello	28,770	1,320	4.6	27,450
Twin Falls	16,840	760	4.5	16,080

\* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

tion equipment, preparing for fall calving, and doing general maintenance and clean-up.

An estimated 42,130 persons did this work in October. This was a 7.4 percent increase in the agricultural labor force from September 2001 and slightly above that of October 2000. All additional workers were hired either directly by the producer or through a farm labor contractor.

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers showed September-to-October increases for alfalfa hay (+ \$4.00 Ton), feed barley (+ \$0.02 Bu), dry beans (+ \$0.10 Cwt), all wheat (+ \$0.06 Bu), and steers and heifers (+ \$0.20 Cwt). Prices decreased for all barley (-\$0.11 Bu), all potatoes (-\$0.30 Cwt), beef cattle (-\$2.10 Cwt), cows (-\$2.10 Cwt), calves (-\$2.00 Cwt), and all milk (-\$0.40 Cwt). The October 2001 prices received for all commodities, except dry beans and all milk, were more than the prices received in October 2000. Some agricultural analysts are attributing the drop in cattle and dairy prices to the September 11 attacks because travel drop-off has caused the institutional use of dairy products to drop, too. These mid-October prices received by farmers are contained in *Agriculture in Idaho*, available on the Internet at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/id/publications/pubtoc.htm>.

The potential water supply outlook looked grim in that drought-like conditions persisted through October. Rain and snowfalls were sporadic at best. Summer and fall water use depleted most reservoirs. Early season winter storms have helped alleviate, to some degree, concerns that agricultural producers will be confronted by serious water shortages, which would mean less water for crop irrigation and higher electrical energy for pumping and electrical machinery operation. That could translate into higher production costs, lower commodity production, lower yields, and quality problems due to the increased risk of disease. A water shortage situation might also cause some farmers to change their crop mix to shorter growing season crops.

## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

For the third time during 2001, the current month's estimates of Idaho *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were less than the previous month. This also occurred in January and July when there was a job loss from the month before. Yet the October 2001 estimates of 574,900 nonfarm jobs is the third highest for the year and on record, is out-matched only by the June estimate of 579,000 and September's 577,400. October's nonfarm job count was 0.4 percent less than September's but 0.2 percent more than in October 2000. State Table 2 (page 6) provides employment by industry and changes from the previous month and one year ago.

October's job loss from the previous month was widespread throughout Idaho's industries with public education being the notable exception. The *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 1,300 jobs and the *Service-Producing Industries* lost 1,200. *Durable Goods Manufacturing* accounted for most of the losses in the *Goods-*

*Producing Industries*. This job loss is reflective of the nation's economic downturn and the continual erosion of the state's wood products industries. Within the *Services-Producing Industries*, job losses were the most pronounced in the tourism-related industries. October is a transition month from summer to winter recreation activities, so some of the losses can be attributed to normal seasonal patterns. However, there have been reports of declines in business-related travel due to safety concerns and this, as well as lowered consumer confidence, has negatively affected lodging and eating businesses.

*Construction* is often used as a barometer of current economic conditions and of consumer expectations and confidence about the future. The number and value of residential and commercial building permits, as well as the number of jobs created by these projects, are the indicators most commonly cited. Although there was a seasonal decline in the number of *Construction* jobs in October from September, the overall level of jobs in this industry remained relatively high over the year. The permit valuation for 2001 construction also has remained strong. Lower mortgage interest rates should bode well for residential construction, but some of the consumer money acquired through mortgage refinancing flows into non-construction expenditures and investments, so *Construction* employment is not directly increased. During the last two years, *Construction* jobs have numbered between 35,000 and 40,000 each month.

*Mining* lost 100 jobs in October month-over-month and 400 from October 2000. Almost all of the lost jobs were in the *Metal Mining* industry and continues the job loss trend in this industry. Depressed silver prices and global competition have caused the loss of many jobs in Shoshone County in Northern Idaho while lower prices for other metals have caused mine closures and layoffs in other parts of the state.

Another mainstay Idaho natural resource industry experiencing job losses is *Lumber & Wood Products*. October was no exception with a loss of 300 jobs from September and 1,000 from a year ago. *Sawmills & Planing Mills* have closed recently or have been forced into layoff situations. New housing starts nationally and the market for manufactured housing and other building products, coupled with a short-term excess supply of wood products, have led to soft market products. In the long term, the import/export situation is fluid and unpredictable, and harvesting of trees on federal lands is still in question due to national policy debates. All of these factors contribute to the job losses within Idaho.

Idaho's largest *Durable Goods Manufacturing* employer is the electronics industry. Recent employment cutbacks, corporate earnings declines, and the ever-present competitive global factors have raised cautious concern about employment levels in electronics-related businesses. Two specific industries are included in Idaho's electronics in-

(Continued on page 26)

State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Oct 2001*	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	574,900	577,400	573,500	-0.4	0.2
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	117,200	118,500	118,600	-1.1	-1.2
<b>Mining</b>	2,200	2,300	2,600	-4.3	-15.4
Metal Mining	800	800	1,200	0.0	-33.3
<b>Construction</b>	39,400	39,900	38,600	-1.3	2.1
<b>Manufacturing</b>	75,600	76,300	77,400	-0.9	-2.3
Durable Goods	46,000	46,800	47,500	-1.7	-3.2
Lumber & Wood Products	10,900	11,200	11,900	-2.7	-8.4
Logging	2,500	2,600	2,200	-3.8	13.6
Sawmills & Planing Mills	3,700	3,800	4,400	-2.6	-15.9
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,000	1,000	1,200	0.0	-16.7
Other Lumber & Wood Products	3,700	3,800	4,100	-2.6	-9.8
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,400	1,400	1,500	0.0	-6.7
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	3,000	3,000	3,100	0.0	-3.2
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	9,600	9,700	10,400	-1.0	-7.7
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	15,200	15,600	14,700	-2.6	3.4
Transportation Equipment	2,200	2,200	2,300	0.0	-4.3
Other Durable Goods	3,700	3,700	3,600	0.0	2.8
Nondurable Goods	29,600	29,500	29,900	0.3	-1.0
Food Processing	17,900	17,700	17,700	1.1	1.1
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,800	10,000	9,700	-2.0	1.0
Paper Products	2,100	2,200	2,200	-4.5	-4.5
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	5,400	5,300	5,700	1.9	-5.3
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,100	2,200	2,300	-4.5	-8.7
Other Nondurable Goods	2,100	2,100	2,000	0.0	5.0
<b>SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	457,700	458,900	454,900	-0.3	0.6
<b>Transportation, Communications, &amp; Utilities</b>	29,800	29,600	28,700	0.7	3.8
Transportation	18,700	18,500	18,100	1.1	3.3
Railroad	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0	0.0
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	11,000	10,800	10,700	1.9	2.8
Communications	7,000	7,000	6,600	0.0	6.1
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	4,100	4,100	4,000	0.0	2.5
<b>Trade</b>	141,300	143,400	145,200	-1.5	-2.7
Wholesale Trade	31,900	32,200	33,900	-0.9	-5.9
Durable Goods	14,900	15,100	15,800	-1.3	-5.7
Nondurable Goods	17,000	17,100	18,100	-0.6	-6.1
Retail Trade	109,400	111,200	111,300	-1.6	-1.7
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	6,500	6,600	6,800	-1.5	-4.4
General Merchandise Stores	13,800	13,700	13,900	0.7	-0.7
Food Stores	19,200	19,200	20,100	0.0	-4.5
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,300	12,400	12,200	-0.8	0.8
Eating & Drinking Places	38,000	39,600	38,000	-4.0	0.0
<b>Finance, Insurance &amp; Real Estate</b>	23,700	23,800	23,600	-0.4	0.4
Banking	7,200	7,200	7,300	0.0	-1.4
<b>Services</b>	149,800	152,500	145,900	-1.8	2.7
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7,900	8,800	8,000	-10.2	-1.3
Personal Services	4,400	4,400	4,200	0.0	4.8
Business Services	30,700	31,000	30,800	-1.0	-0.3
Amusement and Recreation Services	6,300	7,600	6,300	-17.1	0.0
Health Services	37,900	37,800	36,100	0.3	5.0
Hospitals	12,900	12,800	11,600	0.8	11.2
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	18,400	18,300	18,400	0.5	0.0
<b>Government</b>	113,100	109,600	111,500	3.2	1.4
Federal Government	13,500	13,900	13,900	-2.9	-2.9
State & Local Government	99,600	95,700	97,600	4.1	2.0
State Government	30,100	29,100	29,400	3.4	2.4
Education	14,800	13,600	14,400	8.8	2.8
Administration	15,300	15,500	15,000	-1.3	2.0
Local Government	69,500	66,600	68,200	4.4	1.9
Education	40,200	37,000	39,200	8.6	2.6
Administration	29,300	29,600	29,000	-1.0	1.0

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\* Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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# State Table 3: Economic Indicators

				% Change From					
	Oct 2001	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	Last Month	Last Year				
IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup>									
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>									
Civilian Labor Force	688,600	687,700	663,300	0.1	3.8				
Unemployment	33,400	33,400	31,900	0.0	4.7				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.9	4.8						
Total Employment	655,200	654,300	631,400	0.1	3.8				
<b>Unadjusted</b>									
Civilian Labor Force	690,000	691,300	664,600	-0.2	3.8				
Unemployment	27,800	27,700	26,000	0.4	6.9				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.0	3.9						
Total Employment	662,200	663,600	638,600	-0.2	3.7				
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <sup>(2)</sup>	5.4	4.9	3.9						
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX <sup>(2)</sup>									
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	174.0	174.8	170.6	-0.5	2.0				
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	177.7	178.3	174.0	-0.3	2.1				
AGRICULTURE									
Agriculture Employment	42,130	39,220	41,920	7.4	0.5				
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0				
Unpaid Family	670	670	740	0.0	-9.5				
Hired Workers	32,450	29,540	32,170	9.9	0.9				
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE									
<b>Claims Activities</b>									
Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	12,035	6,139	7,120	96.0	69.0				
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	61,409	46,733	33,495	31.4	83.3				
<b>Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup></b>									
Weeks Compensated	48,428	37,696	26,474	28.5	82.9				
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$10,535,855	\$8,114,364	\$5,280,221	29.8	99.5				
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$217.56	\$215.26	\$199.45	1.1	9.1				
Covered Employers	40,343	40,216	38,954	0.3	3.6				
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$138,929,922	\$133,674,288	\$105,184,825	3.9	32.1				
(1) Preliminary Estimate									
(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics									
(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims									
(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent									
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities									
HOURS AND EARNINGS									
	Average Weekly Earnings*			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct 2001	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	Oct 2001	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	Oct 2001	Sept 2001	Oct 2000
Mining	\$685.86	\$661.28	\$611.93	42.6	41.8	40.1	\$16.10	\$15.82	\$15.26
Construction	\$667.91	\$676.20	\$634.48	38.9	39.8	38.5	\$17.17	\$16.99	\$16.48
Total Manufacturing	\$583.25	\$608.38	\$571.57	38.6	38.8	39.5	\$15.11	\$15.68	\$14.47
Lumber & Wood Products	\$572.09	\$606.56	\$510.33	39.4	40.6	36.4	\$14.52	\$14.94	\$14.02
Food & Kindred Products	\$465.75	\$489.54	\$485.52	41.4	39.8	40.8	\$11.25	\$12.30	\$11.90
Communications	\$683.80	\$777.59	\$762.62	37.8	42.1	42.7	\$18.09	\$18.47	\$17.86
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	\$815.48	\$823.20	\$905.18	39.3	40.0	40.5	\$20.75	\$20.58	\$22.35
Trade	\$317.52	\$336.08	\$315.45	29.4	29.9	29.9	\$10.80	\$11.24	\$10.55
Wholesale Trade	\$503.74	\$518.02	\$512.59	35.4	36.2	36.2	\$14.23	\$14.31	\$14.16
Retail Trade	\$267.16	\$287.92	\$261.70	27.8	28.2	28.2	\$9.61	\$10.21	\$9.28
DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS									
* These average earnings are computed on a gross basis and reflect changes in premium pay for overtime and late shift work as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive wage.									



# PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

For one picture of the recession's toll on the Panhandle economy, a look at unemployment insurance claims and the *Jobs by Place of Work* statistics in Panhandle Table 1. Since late September, newly unemployed people have inundated the five Job Service offices serving the Idaho Panhandle. Initial claims for unemployment insurance rose to 2,258 in October—87.5 higher than the 1,204 initial claims in October 2000 and 109.9 percent higher than the 1,076 initial claims in October 1999.

The *Jobs by Place of Work* shows large job losses in *Goods-Producing Industries*, which in turn caused job losses in *Transportation* and *Wholesale Trade*.

Between October 2000 and October 2001, *Mining* employment fell from 1,000 jobs to 640 jobs. Last winter's closure of the Sunshine Mine near Kellogg caused about 220 of those job losses. The late October layoff of more than 80 people at the Lucky Friday Mine near Mullan is not reflected in the numbers because employment statistics always are calculated for the week containing the twelfth of the month. Following the Lucky Friday Mine layoff, *Mining* employment fell to its lowest level in more than 110 years.

Construction employment fell to 4,930 jobs in October, falling below the October 2000 level of 5,160 jobs. Because of the economic slowdown, fewer commercial construction projects are underway than normal in recent years.

*Lumber & Wood Products* entered another troubled period after September 11. In the first eight months of 2001, lumber prices rose, giving the industry respite from the record low prices of 2000. In August, the imposition of a 12.6 percent tariff on Canadian softwood lumber imports promised to stem the flood of subsidized Canadian lumber, which had kept lumber prices low and reduced demand for Pacific Northwest lumber. It seemed possible that the turbulence in the lumber market that began in the

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	Oct 2001*	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	91,070	92,370	89,790	-1.4	1.4
Unemployed	6,830	7,050	7,760	-3.1	-12.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.5%	7.6%	8.6%		
Total Employment	84,240	85,320	82,030	-1.3	2.7
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	90,190	92,130	88,630	-2.1	1.8
Unemployed	5,500	5,190	6,100	6.0	-9.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.1%	5.6%	6.9%		
Total Employment	84,690	86,940	82,530	-2.6	2.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	68,700	70,390	67,750	-2.4	1.4
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	14,220	14,750	15,010	-3.6	-5.3
Mining	640	670	1,000	-4.5	-36.0
Construction	4,930	5,220	5,160	-5.6	-4.5
Manufacturing	8,650	8,860	8,850	-2.4	-2.3
Lumber & Wood Products	4,290	4,360	4,180	-1.6	2.6
All Other Manufacturing	4,360	4,500	4,670	-3.1	-6.6
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	54,480	55,640	52,740	-2.1	3.3
Transportation	1,490	1,580	1,600	-5.7	-6.9
Communication & Utilities	1,100	1,110	1,060	-0.9	3.8
Wholesale Trade	2,130	2,150	2,280	-0.9	-6.6
Retail Trade	15,630	15,960	15,260	-2.1	2.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,600	2,650	2,450	-1.9	6.1
Service & Miscellaneous	17,790	18,630	16,660	-4.5	6.8
Government Administration	7,870	8,180	7,640	-3.8	3.0
Government Education	5,870	5,380	5,790	9.1	1.4
* Preliminary estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

spring of 2000 might end. Then, the events of September 11 exacerbated the U.S. recession, causing lumber prices to drop close to the record low levels of Fall 2000. Low prices forced several Panhandle mills to shut down for a week or more in October and November 2001. In late October, Crown Pacific closed its Coeur d'Alene mill, permanently eliminating 100 jobs. Because the closure and most of the temporary shutdowns occurred after the week of October 12, those job losses do not show up in the October statistics. The lumber industry is hoping that the recent imposition of an additional 19.3 percent tariff on softwood lumber imports from Canada will offset some of the effects of the U.S. recession on the lumber industry.

The U.S. recession continued to take a toll on the rest of the Panhandle's *Manufacturing* sector. A wide variety of manufacturing operations laid off workers in October, causing *All Other Manufacturing* to fall to 4,360 jobs—6.6 percent below the 4,670 jobs recorded in October 2000.

Reduced travel spending by businesses, tighter family budgets, and a reluctance to travel by some Americans held tourism employment below last fall's levels.



Residents of Bonner and Shoshone counties hope a good ski season will make up for some of this fall's tourism losses. Area ski hills tend to get most of their customers from the Inland Northwest (Eastern Washington, North Idaho, and Northwest Montana), so reduced air travel should not affect ski visits much. The success of the ski season mostly will depend on the weather.

Although they hoped to open for the four-day Thanksgiving weekend, the Panhandle's ski hills were not able to open until the first weekend in December. Lack of snow pack delayed the openings. Early December brought plenty of snow and the promise of a good ski season.

The Panhandle's three ski areas play critical roles in the economy as employers and as the focus of winter tourism. During ski season, Schweitzer Mountain Resort near Sandpoint employs more than 550 people, Silver Mountain in Kellogg employs 200 people, and Lookout Pass near the Idaho-Montana border along Interstate 90 employs 50 people. In addition, the ski areas bring tourists to motels, restaurants, and retail stores, offsetting some of the income and jobs lost by local economies during the winter.

## **AREA DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Benewah County**

- Mike Petramala and his fiancée Janet Winter opened M & J Auto Service, a full-service automotive repair shop, in Plummer this summer.

### **Bonner County**

- Bonner County's largest manufacturer, Litehouse Dressing, recently purchased Pend Oreille Cheese Co., a cheese factory that has operated in Sandpoint for 40 years. Litehouse plans to produce the 325 tons of kosher bleu cheese that it needs each year for its salad dressings. Currently, Litehouse purchases bleu cheese from several different suppliers. In early January, a crew of six people will begin making bleu cheese. Litehouse plans to keep Pend Oreille Cheese's retail cheese and gift shop open.
- Bridge Partners, the Utah real estate development company that purchased the Stoneridge development last spring, has big plans for Stoneridge. It is spending \$3 million to improve the 18-hole golf course. By 2003, it plans to build a new 5,000-square-foot clubhouse and to improve the Stoneridge recreational facility. Over the next ten years, Bridge Partners plans to develop 500 single-family home sites and 100 condominium units around the golf course. Infrastructure work is underway, so it can start development of 150 residential lots next year. Plans also include a system of walking trails and an equestrian center. Approximately 50 homes already are located at Stoneridge, which is in Blanchard, a

small town along State Highway 41 northwest of Spirit Lake.

- Chef Chris Arlo and his sister Lisa Guscott recently opened Arlo's Ristorante, an Italian restaurant at 330 North First Avenue in Sandpoint.
- The 600 members of the Eagles in Sandpoint have decided to keep their club in downtown Sandpoint. They plan to completely remodel their building at 208 North First Avenue by early summer. North Idaho Structures of Sandpoint will act as general contractor for the remodel.
- Brandon and Laurie Beck recently opened the Body Zone at the Bonner Mall in Ponderay. The clothing store offers danceware, shoes, and black leather clothing.
- Another new business at the Bonner Mall is Curves for Women, a fitness and weight loss center owned by Susie Munson.

### **Kootenai County**

- Two of the largest construction firms in Kootenai County closed their doors in the last few months, while a third became two separate businesses. Parrot Mechanical—a heating, plumbing, and electrical contractor—permanently closed its doors in August. Parrott employed more than 250 people at the beginning of 2001. C & R Plumbing, which employed more than 100 people, permanently closed in November. Following the death of owner Jacob Dodge, Norm's Plumbing & Heating, a 30-year-old utility construction company primarily involved with sewer and street projects, sold the company's utility-construction division to three longtime employees—David K. Johnson, Tyler W. Eberle, and Elmer D. Smith. The new company, Norm's Utility Contractors Inc., kept all 65 employees of the utility division and is located at the former Norm's Plumbing & Heating building at 5925 East Seltice Way in Post Falls. The rest of Norm's Plumbing & Heating was renamed J.B. Dodge Inc. It will focus on residential and commercial property development.

### **Shoshone County**

- Shauna Hillman recently opened Indelible Tidbits, a one-hour color photo processing center, in Wallace.

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# SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October remained at September's rate of 3.7 percent. In October 2000 the rate was 5.5 percent. In spite of the low unemployment rate, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* continued to decrease in October. Total jobs decreased by 330 from September 2001 and by 850 from October 2000. October's decrease occurred in almost all industries. The only good news in October was that two major industries, *Lumber and Wood Products* and *Paper and Allied Products*, didn't lose jobs as in past months, maintaining jobs at September's level. *Education* was the only industry to record an increase in jobs in October; however, the increase was only a normal seasonal adjustment as schools continue to gear up from summer vacation. Compared to October 2000, *Education* increased by no more than ten jobs.

## SPECIAL TOPIC

### Washington State Minimum Wage

North Central Idaho employers, especially those in Lewiston and Moscow, keep a close eye on the minimum wage in the state of Washington. Increases in the minimum wage in Washington usually signal a need to increase entry level wages in North Central Idaho border communities because employers compete for the same labor pool. Workers earning minimum wage in Washington State will be paid \$6.90 per hour starting Jan. 1, 2002—an 18 cent an hour increase from the current rate. The state's minimum wage is recalculated each year in September as a result of an initiative approved by voters in 1998. The initiative tied the minimum wage to changes in the federal Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers (CPI-W). For the 12 months ending August 2001, the nationwide CPI-W increased 2.658 percent. Therefore, Washington's current minimum wage of \$6.72 per hour will increase 2.658 percent to \$6.90 per hour. The new wage applies to workers 18 and older across the state, in both agricultural and non-agricultural jobs. Workers 16 and 17 years of age also will receive the

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington

	Oct 2001*	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	34,170	34,610	33,460	-1.3	2.1
Unemployment	1,260	1,290	1,830	-2.3	-31.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.7	5.5		
Total Employment	32,910	33,320	31,630	-1.2	4.0
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	33,990	34,210	33,160	-0.6	2.5
Unemployment	1,060	980	1,540	8.2	-31.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	2.9	4.6		
Total Employment	32,930	33,230	31,620	-0.9	4.1
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	25,390	25,720	26,240	-1.3	-3.2
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,960	5,280	5,220	-6.1	-5.0
Mining & Construction	1,210	1,420	1,360	-14.8	-11.0
Manufacturing	3,750	3,860	3,860	-2.8	-2.8
Food Processing	70	120	130	-41.7	-46.2
Lumber & Wood Products	710	710	680	0.0	4.4
Paper Products	1,690	1,690	1,720	0.0	-1.7
All Other Manufacturing	1,280	1,340	1,330	-4.5	-3.8
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	20,430	20,440	21,020	0.0	-2.8
Transportation	1,320	1,340	1,370	-1.5	-3.6
Communications & Utilities	280	290	290	-3.4	-3.4
Wholesale Trade	880	940	960	-6.4	-8.3
Retail Trade	5,050	5,060	5,270	-0.2	-4.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,350	1,360	1,420	-0.7	-4.9
Services	7,220	7,290	7,500	-1.0	-3.7
Government Administration	1,820	1,890	1,710	-3.7	6.4
Government Education	2,510	2,270	2,500	10.6	0.4
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

raise under a rule that states they are to earn the same minimum wage as adults. The current minimum wage in Idaho and the U.S. is \$5.15. There are no January 1, 2001 increases planned for either Idaho or the U.S.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Latah County

- The University of Idaho (UI) is in the midst of a \$35 million residence hall project. Dan Schoenberg, UI director of auxiliary services, said the need for new beds was made obvious this fall. "When you need to house students in hotels and motels, there is a shortage of viable housing on the campus," he said. "Next year's going to be a tough year to try to accommodate all the students." New residence halls under construction will include approximately 20,000-square feet of classrooms, 600 beds within eight buildings, and a 180-car parking structure on the corner of Line and Sixth streets. The first 300 beds are scheduled to be available by fall 2003, with the second 300 beds to follow in May 2004. UI will lose about 500 beds when Gault Hall and Upham Hall are de-

molished, Scholars' Hall is returned to Theta Chi fraternity, and the use of rooms in the Alumni Residence Center is discontinued. "We'll net about 100 beds," Schoenberg said.

#### **Idaho & Lewis Counties**

- The Ida-Lew Economic Development Council hired an economic development specialist to promote and market communities in Idaho and Lewis counties, using a grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce. Shaun Maxey, formerly of the Washington State Small Business Development Center, was hired to coordinate efforts to attract new business, and retain and assist existing business. Shaun will be located in donated office space at Shearer Lumber in Grangeville. A workshop was held earlier this year in Cottonwood to try to locate small business owners and entrepreneurs who need help establishing their businesses. Workshop participants will be some of the first people that Shaun will contact.

#### **Nez Perce and Asotin Counties**

- Potlatch Corporation announced in November that they will layoff about 390 employees during the holidays at their Clearwater Lumber plant in Lewiston. Clearwater Lumber will be shut down November 19-26, December 24-28 and December 31- January 4. Extremely slow markets for lumber products is the key reason for the layoffs, according to a company press release. Demand for lumber usually decreases this time of year as the weather grows colder and construction projects slow down. This year the traditional softening of the market is coinciding with a nationwide slowdown that may have been accelerated by the September 11 terrorist attacks.
- Alliant Techsystems (ATK), a weapons and aerospace manufacturer, is buying the Sporting Equipment Group of Blount International. According to ATK, the company is committed to Blount's Lewiston manufacturing plant and believes the Lewiston plant is a key to the company's overall growth. Blount, one of the largest manufacturers in North Central Idaho, employs about 700 people in Lewiston where it makes sporting and law enforcement ammunition. ATK manufactures the following: bullets; ammunition for tanks, rifles, and armored vehicles; strategic missiles; tactical missiles fired from aircraft; and rocket motors used on space launch vehicles for commercial satellites and the space shuttle. According to ATK officials, the Blount acquisition provides the company with a way to strengthen munitions, one of two anchor businesses of the company. The other anchor is propulsion. The acquisition also will help ATK enter the market of civil and law enforcement ammunition, and allow them to expand more rapidly in environmentally-friendly, lead-free ammunition. Research done at Blount in Lewiston has been instrumental in creating new products in those areas. According to ATK, the company's profit margins are among the best in the

industry, and executives expect to find more ways to save with the growth such as brokering deals on raw materials used for products made at existing ATK plants and Blount operations.

- In a victory for the struggling lumber industry, the U.S. Department of Commerce in November levied a 12.5 percent anti-dump duty on Canadian softwood lumber products. This ruling charged Canadian mills with exporting softwood lumber products to the United States below fair market value. The 12.5 percent duty is on top of the 19.3 percent countervailing duty put in place in August against Canadian softwood imports. The countervailing duty charged the Canadian government with unfairly subsidizing the country's lumber industry. "We're pleased by the decision and yet another confirmation that we have been playing on an uneven field," said Mark Benson, public affairs director in Lewiston for the Potlatch Corporation, "and we're hopeful that this action, along with previously imposed countervailing duty will improve our business climate over the long haul."
- TeleServicing Innovations (TSI) postponed expansion to Lewiston because of a national business downturn. The company plans to open a contact center at the business development park being built on port land east of Thain Grade. Originally TSI planned to open in Lewiston by December. The target date now is May 2002 for construction; the center won't open until several months after that date, though no definite date has been set, according to Jeff Neiswanger, president and chief executive of TSI. Development of infrastructure for the business technology park is not threatened. The \$1.8 million in grant money to install sewer, water and roads at the park hinges on the Regence Group constructing an insurance claims processing center. That project is moving forward. Construction will start sometime after January 1st, take 12 to 18 months, and be ready in 2003. The Regence group serves affiliated plans in Idaho, Utah, Oregon, and Washington.
- American Classic Voyages is voluntarily reorganizing under Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The company operates the Columbia Queen, the largest cruise ship that docks in Clarkston. Currently, the Columbia Queen is docked in Portland under court order, pending action. Bookings at American Classic Voyages, the largest domestic cruise boat company, declined 50 percent after the September 11 World Trade Center attacks, according to a company press release. "The aftermath of the terrorists acts and the war on terrorism had a dramatic effect on the company's financial health."

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# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon counties, was 4.3 percent in October 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. The current rate was unchanged from September, and up an entire percentage point from the October 2000 rate of 3.3 percent. There were no new layoffs announced in October helping to slow the growth in the number of jobless workers. During October the number unemployed increased by 100 to 10,900, however, the year-over-year increase was 3,000. The number of persons employed decreased by 600 from September to 242,500 but the current level is 10,700 above October 2000. The drop in employment is the first since November 2000 when employment

**Treasure Valley Table 2: September 2001  
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for  
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	183,019	6,928	3.8	176,091
Adams	1,796	189	10.5	1,607
Boise	2,852	135	4.7	2,717
Canyon	70,376	4,012	5.7	66,364
Elmore	9,460	500	5.3	8,960
Gem	6,976	702	10.1	6,273
Owyhee	4,548	159	3.5	4,389
Payette	10,494	850	8.1	9,645
Valley	4,097	292	7.1	3,805
Washington	4,704	365	7.8	4,338
Statewide	688,680	33,440	4.9	655,240

decreased by 1,200. The decrease in employment also reflects the slowdown in economic activity. Less activity leads to fewer new job opportunities. The changes in the labor force components resulted in a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 500 people from September to October 2001, but an increase of 13,700 people from one year ago. Table 2 shows the October labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 400 from September to Oc-

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Ada and Canyon counties**

	Oct 2001*	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	253,400	253,900	239,700	-0.2	5.7
Unemployment	10,900	10,800	7,900	0.9	38.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.3	3.3		
Total Employment	242,500	243,100	231,800	-0.2	4.6
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	251,700	253,900	237,800	-0.9	5.8
Unemployment	9,500	9,000	7,000	5.6	35.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.6	2.9		
Total Employment	242,200	244,900	230,800	-1.1	4.9
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	232,800	232,400	227,300	0.2	2.4
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	54,200	54,700	54,100	-0.9	0.2
<b>Mining &amp; Construction</b>	18,100	18,200	16,700	-0.5	8.4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	36,100	36,500	37,400	-1.1	-3.5
Durable Goods	27,600	28,100	28,700	-1.8	-3.8
Lumber & Wood Products	3,300	3,300	3,300	0.0	0.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,500	2,500	2,400	0.0	4.2
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,100	1,300	0.0	-15.4
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	6,500	6,600	8,100	-1.5	-19.8
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	13,100	13,400	12,300	-2.2	6.5
Transportation Equipment	1,800	1,800	1,700	0.0	5.9
Other Durable Goods	1,800	1,900	2,000	-5.3	-10.0
Nondurable Goods	8,500	8,400	8,700	1.2	-2.3
Food Products	5,700	5,600	5,800	1.8	-1.7
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,800	1,800	-5.6	-5.6
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
<b>SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	178,600	177,700	173,200	0.5	3.1
<b>Trans, Comm, &amp; Public Util</b>	12,200	12,300	12,200	-0.8	0.0
Transportation	6,800	6,900	6,700	-1.4	1.5
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,400	5,400	5,500	0.0	-1.8
<b>Trade</b>	57,400	57,600	56,600	-0.3	1.4
Wholesale Trade	13,400	13,600	13,800	-1.5	-2.9
Durable Goods	8,200	8,200	8,300	0.0	-1.2
Nondurable Goods	5,200	5,400	5,500	-3.7	-5.5
Retail Trade	44,000	44,000	42,800	0.0	2.8
General Merchandise Stores	6,200	6,300	5,500	-1.6	12.7
Foods Stores	7,200	7,200	7,800	0.0	-7.7
Eating & Drinking Places	15,500	15,600	14,800	-0.6	4.7
Other Retail Trade	15,100	14,900	14,700	1.3	2.7
<b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate</b>	11,100	11,100	11,100	0.0	0.0
<b>Services</b>	61,900	62,100	59,100	-0.3	4.7
Business Services	14,900	15,000	15,000	-0.7	-0.7
Health Services	18,800	18,600	16,700	1.1	12.6
Hospitals	9,000	8,900	7,500	1.1	20.0
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,800	4,700	4,600	2.1	4.3
Other Services	23,400	23,800	22,800	-1.7	2.6
<b>Government</b>	36,000	34,600	34,200	4.0	5.3
Federal Government	5,300	5,300	5,100	0.0	3.9
State Government	13,400	13,100	12,600	2.3	6.3
Education	4,800	4,500	4,500	6.7	6.7
Administration	8,600	8,600	8,100	0.0	6.2
Local Government	17,300	16,200	16,500	6.8	4.8
Education	11,400	10,400	10,900	9.6	4.6
Administration	5,900	5,800	5,600	1.7	5.4

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

tober 2001, and increased by 5,500 jobs since October 2000. The changes resulted in 232,800 nonfarm jobs in October. The following industrial sectors experienced job losses of 100 or more between October and September 2001: *Motion Pictures and Amusement & Recreation Services* (330), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (310), *Wholesale Trade* (250), *Heavy Construction* (60), *Eating & Drinking Places* (130), *Business Services* (130), and *Agriculture-related Services* (120). With the exception of electronics, the other sectors lost jobs because of seasonal factors. These losses were offset by increases in the following sectors: *Miscellaneous Retail* (110), *Health Services* (150), *Social Services* (170), *Educational Services* (210), *State Government Education* (400), and *Local Government Education* (980). The increase in the number of jobs in the educational sectors was because schools continued to hire support staff for the fall term. The growth in *Health Services* occurred as St. Lukes Regional Medical Center hired additional staff for the expansion of the Meridian hospital, which opened in late November.

Significant changes since October 2000 occurred in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* (-1,650), *Food Stores* (-540), *Wholesale Trade* (-470), *Health Services* (2,100), *Construction* (1,410), and *Retail Trade* (1,180). The job losses are a result of various layoffs during the year. Over two-thirds of the new jobs in *Health Services* are in the *Hospital* sector as all of the MSA's hospitals have expanded their facilities thus increasing the number of workers needed. Every sector of *Construction* reported a year-over-year increase. *Heavy Construction* led the way with 680 new jobs as many highway and other infrastructure projects have been underway throughout the year. *General Merchandise Stores* and *Eating & Drinking Places* were the largest contributors to the growth in *Retail Trade* since October 2000 with more than 700 new jobs each. It should be noted that both of these industries experienced a loss of jobs between September and October 2001, again reflecting a slowing of the area's economy.

## **SPECIAL TOPIC**

### **Rural Idaho Forum**

On November 9 and 10, many people from around the state gathered at Albertson College of Idaho's Langroise Center for the Andrus Center for Public Policy's Rural Idaho Forum. At the conference, lawmakers, civic leaders, business persons, and others with an interest in rural Idaho shared thoughts and ideas regarding rural Idaho. The topic of community-government-private cooperation and involvement was stressed by a number of panelists that spoke at the forum. Experts who spoke at the conference stated that infrastructure was critical for the success of rural communities in Idaho and everywhere else in the nation. The first step in helping rural Idaho communities is for the communities to come up

with a long-term plan using information gathered from a number of different players. Cooperation among the local government, state government, and private businesses is the key. The conference was attended by more than 250 people. For more information on the conference, please see the Andrus Center's website at [www.andruscenter.org](http://www.andruscenter.org).

## **AREA DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Boise City MSA**

- A new 58,600-square-foot Albertson's store opened at Vista Avenue and Overland Road in Boise. The new store offers expanded services, and includes a substation for the Boise Police Department. A fuel center at the site will open at a later date. The store replaces an older and smaller Albertson's store on the same site that was demolished.
- Big 5 Sporting Goods opened its first Boise area store at 101 North Milwaukee Street in the former Future Shop building. Big 5 Sporting Goods stores offer a full line of brand-name sporting goods products at competitive prices. The company operates over 250 stores in nine western states. The Boise store will employ from 16 to 22 employees.
- The Caldwell Police Department opened its new station at 110 South Fifth Avenue. The station includes briefing, training, interview, records, and evidence rooms, administrative offices, and a workout room with showers and lockers. Also, a special report-writing room allows officers to monitor young offenders waiting for their parents, without having to keep them handcuffed. The building also will be the new home of the Caldwell City Council. Council chambers will double as a community meeting room. A \$5.6 million bond approved by the voters paid for the 26,400-square-foot facility that replaces the former station on Main Street.
- The new Canyon County Animal Shelter opened its doors on Graye Lane, off Happy Day Boulevard in Caldwell. The new shelter has floors that can be heated or cooled, curved roofs covered in canvas to diminish the sound of barking dogs, an air-exchange system, and an abundance of natural lighting. The facility is about eight times bigger than the old shelter in Nampa, and it includes a surgery center and conference room. The new shelter has 22 holding kennels and 50 kennels for adoptable dogs.
- Capital City Family Medicine announced it will move from 1625 West State Street in Boise to the first floor of 1520 West State Street by early March 2002. The new location, formerly Idaho Power's customer service center, offers more office space and parking and will boast a new radiology suite. The medical practice hopes to add two more family medicine

providers. The 27,000-square-foot building will be renamed Plaza 1520, with renovations planned for the interior and exterior. Tenants for the basement and second floor of the building have not yet been signed.

- A new video production company, Crosstie Productions, opened in Boise. The company specializes in videos for railroad fans, and its first commercial release features the Idaho Northern & Pacific's Cascade subdivision. Crosstie's web address is [www.crosstieproductions.com](http://www.crosstieproductions.com).
- Fred Meyer opened its sixth store in the Treasure Valley at the site of the former Franklin Shopping Center at Franklin Road and Orchard Street in Boise. The new store is longer and narrower than other Fred Meyer stores to accommodate the available space. The design includes three customer entrances: the eastern entrance provides access to the food section, the central entrance opens to the clothing and housewares portion of the store, and the western entrance is near the outdoor garden center. A Starbucks Coffee bar and a Washington Mutual Bank branch are located inside the store. About 130 new employees will be assisted by 50 experienced Fred Meyer workers who have transferred from other stores. Adjoining space in the building has been leased to Baskin Robbins ice cream shop and Great Clips hair salon.
- Intermountain Community Bank opened a new branch at 521 Twelfth Avenue South in Nampa. The new full-service bank branch plans to add three drive-in lanes and a teller lane by April 2002. Intermountain Community Bank is a state-chartered commercial bank offering standard deposit, loan, investment, and insurance services for both personal and commercial banking. Online services are available on the bank's website at [222.intermountainbank.com](http://222.intermountainbank.com).
- McDonald InsurServe, a Twin Falls-based insurance agency, moved its Treasure Valley office from Nampa to Boise. The company has leased over 4,000-square feet of space in Vista Station at Vista Avenue and Rose Hill Street—nearly twice as much space as their Nampa offices. The company hopes to double in size in five years and double its Nampa staff of 9 by the end of this year, and much of that growth is expected to occur in the Treasure Valley.
- Construction began on a new \$250,000 hangar at the Nampa Airport. The 5,400-square-foot hangar will serve as headquarters for the Nampa Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, housing the Cessna 182 aircraft belonging to the organization. The hangar also will contain a classroom and communications center. The Treasure Valley Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association will share the space

with the squadron. A \$1.8 million, 65-acre expansion also is in progress at the Nampa Airport, doubling the available space for hangars. The expansion project also will make room for flight training, repair shops, and chartering services, and should be completed in one to three years.

- The Nampa Police Department opened a substation in the Edwards Theaters complex on Karcher Road. The facility will be home to the department's traffic team and a community service officer, with other officers using the space as needed to write reports or meet with citizens. The new substation allows officers to avoid traveling 20 minutes across town to get to the main station. Department personnel and citizen volunteers remodeled the former Pasta Prima restaurant, saving the city about \$7,000. The 1,200-square-foot leased space will be used until a new police and fire station can be built in the area within the next few years.
- Pioneer Federal Credit Union plans to open a branch office in Eagle early in 2002. The credit union signed a lease to occupy the former Washington Federal Savings Bank branch at 560 East State Street. Washington Federal moved to a new building across State Street in October. Pioneer Federal is a community credit union based in Mountain Home, and currently has eight branch offices. The Eagle branch will offer investment, insurance, and mortgage services. Pioneer Federal also hopes to open another branch office in Ada County by the end of next year, but no site has yet been determined.
- St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center opened its 24-hour emergency room service and full-service hospital. The expanded facility at 520 South Eagle Road includes an obstetrics ward and surgery rooms along with 62 beds. The number of beds is expected to increase to 146 upon completion of the fifth and sixth floors. St. Luke's Meridian will serve patients who live in west Boise, Meridian, Eagle, and Kuna, and even Canyon County. Because Meridian's population more than tripled in the 1990s, demand for expanded services at the location occurred more quickly than originally expected by hospital administrators. St. Luke's is already planning to build a second hospital building at the site.
- The University of Phoenix plans to move to the first floor of Eagle Road Professional Center II by early next year. The university has leased a 7,800-square-foot space that is larger than its current temporary quarters in the Boise Research Center. The new facility is on Gentry Way, southeast of Meridian. This location was chosen to allow the school to draw students from several growing communities. The Boise campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs in business and technology; additional de-

gree programs will be added as soon as possible. Currently 29 students are enrolled in the Boise-area programs. The university is recruiting faculty members with at least a master's degree and who work in their chosen fields.

- WestCoast Hospitality Corp. announced plans to purchase the DoubleTree Downtown hotel in Boise by the end of the year. The DoubleTree Downtown hotel at 1800 Fairview Avenue has 182 rooms, along with a restaurant and 8,600-square feet of meeting space. Hilton Hotels Corp. will continue to manage the DoubleTree Club hotel on ParkCenter Boulevard and the DoubleTree Riverside hotel on Chinden Boulevard. WestCoast Hospitality manages the Grove Hotel in downtown Boise, in addition to owning the ParkCenter Suites hotel on ParkCenter Boulevard. The purchase deal includes 42 Red Lion hotels, and five DoubleTree hotels that were previously Red Lion hotels.
- Washington Group International's bankruptcy reorganization plan was approved by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Reno, Nevada. The global construction and engineering firm has been through two bankruptcies in six years. Stock will be divided between lenders and unsecured creditors, while former shareholders will receive nothing. Financing, expected to be finalized in December, must be secured before this bankruptcy will be officially closed. Washington Group also announced that it laid off 30 employees in Boise as part of its efforts to eliminate 8,000 jobs worldwide. After the cuts, Washington Group will have about 30,000 employees.

#### **Adams County**

- The New Meadows Valley Emergency Service Building held an open house in early November that followed the grand opening celebration. The project recently was completed by Simplot Construction and is the first Emergency Services Building in New Meadows; the project was a joint venture by the Meadows Valley Ambulance Service and the Meadows Valley Rural Fire Protection District. The new facility will house four fire trucks and two ambulances.
- Construction started on the Western Timber building that will be located in the business park in Council. Western Timber anticipates a January 1, 2002 opening date.

#### **Boise County**

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort opened for business on Wednesday, November 28, 2001. The Farmer's Almanac predicts that Idaho will have above average precipitation throughout the winter months, so ski-

ers and snowboarders are looking for a great season at Bogus Basin.

#### **Elmore County**

- Jennie's Fashion Boutique held a grand opening ceremony in mid-November. The shop is located at 204 North Main Street in Mountain Home and is designed as a one-stop shop for all wardrobe needs.
- The Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) was not awarded the first wing of the F-22 Raptors, the next generation air superiority fighter of the Air Force. After more than a year of studies and hearings, the Air Force decided to award the first operational wing of the Raptors to Langley AFB in Virginia, where most of the training will be done over the Atlantic Ocean.

#### **Valley County**

- Brundage Mountain Ski Resort opened on Wednesday, November 28, 2001.
- Proposed improvements to McCall-Donnelly (M-D) High School include a new gymnasium and a performing arts center. These improvements are a part of the \$8-\$10 million improvement plan that was designed by the M-D School District and Design West Architects of Nampa.
- The McCall Community Improvement Corporation (MCIC) recently was established as a non-profit organization that will accept tax-deductible donations and disperse the funds to benefit the City of McCall. The MCIC replaces the McCall Action Committee, which was a subcommittee of the non-profit Valley County Unified Economic Development, Inc.

#### **Washington County**

- The Vendome Events Center in Weiser held a grand opening celebration on November 30, 2001. Following a walk-through inspection by the City Council, the group determined that new, more practical tile should be laid in the bathrooms in January 2002. The Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation's annual Festival of Trees featured 19 trees which were displayed at the grand opening of the Vendome Events Center.

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# MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate in October 2001 for the Magic Valley Labor Market Area was 4.1 percent—that's three-tenths of a percentage point higher than September 2001, but three-tenths of a percentage point lower than October 2000. *Civilian Labor Force* was 1.1 percent higher than a year ago, indicating that new people are entering the workforce. Overall numbers of unemployed are down 5.8 percent year-over-year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.1 percent indicated strong employment in South Central Idaho.

*Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment* was down by 3.4 percent, and this seems to support the contention that the economy is cooling somewhat. Virtually all sectors show some declines brought about by an economic slowdown. The sectors with the largest decreases were *Transportation, Communications, & Utilities*, and *Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate* with declines of 16.1 percent and 8.3 percent respectively.

Consumer confidence nationwide has improved somewhat and has helped *Retail* and *Services* stabilize, minimizing their sharp downward trend over the past three months. In South Central Idaho consumer confidence has continued to be strong and most retailers have been hiring seasonal holiday help as usual. Most major retailers have reported hiring temporary holiday help at average or higher levels, and initial consumer spending has been encouraging. Magic Valley travel agents reported full flights and trips over the Thanksgiving weekend making South Central Idaho somewhat atypical to the nation.

*Food Processing* was down 12.7 percent over the past month, but that was expected because lower agricultural production reduced inventories for process-

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding counties

	Oct 2001*	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	47,640	47,360	47,120	0.6	1.1
Unemployment	1,940	1,810	2,060	7.2	-5.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	3.8	4.4		
Total Employment	45,700	45,550	45,060	0.3	1.4
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	48,320	48,420	47,750	-0.2	1.2
Unemployment	1,610	1,480	1,670	8.8	-3.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.1	3.5		
Total Employment	46,710	46,940	46,080	-0.5	1.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>					
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	7,230	7,790	7,480	-7.2	-3.3
Mining & Construction	2,070	2,140	2,080	-3.3	-0.5
Manufacturing	5,160	5,650	5,400	-8.7	-4.4
Durable Goods	840	840	880	0.0	-4.5
Nondurable Goods	4,320	4,810	4,520	-10.2	-4.4
Food Processing	3,290	3,770	3,450	-12.7	-4.6
All Other Nondurable Goods	1,030	1,040	1,070	-1.0	-3.7
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	29,840	29,730	30,890	0.4	-3.4
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,510	2,470	2,990	1.6	-16.1
Wholesale Trade	2,250	2,340	2,280	-3.8	-1.3
Retail Trade	8,090	8,060	8,420	0.4	-3.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,220	1,210	1,330	0.8	-8.3
Services	7,960	8,050	8,380	-1.1	-5.0
Government Administration	3,560	3,620	3,700	-1.7	-3.8
Government Education	4,250	3,980	3,790	6.8	12.1

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

ing. In addition, some food processors, especially fresh-pack operations, did not have as long a production season. The staple food processors in South Central Idaho appear to be very stable and have shown no indication of unannounced worker layoffs. Agriculture has shown some positive movement this past year. Locally, prices have seen an increase—potatoes are up 111.3 percent, butter is up 67 percent, wheat is up 48.7 percent, beans are up 12.6 percent, and sugar is up 10.9 percent. Most of these increases were brought about because fewer acres were planted, creating reduced supplies which drove prices up. Again, the outlook for agriculture remains more optimistic than in the near past provided that South Central Idaho receives the precipitation necessary to replenish the reservoirs and provide adequate irrigation throughout the next crop year.



## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Twin Falls County

- Dell Computers has completed its initial hiring for the new consumer technical support center to be located on Pole Line Road in Twin Falls. To date, more than 2,000 applicants have called in to the Initial Voice Response Number. Magic Valley Job Service employees conducted one-on-one telephone screenings with several hundred applicants, narrowing the applicant pool to approximately 400 who were invited to Dell Overview sessions on the weekend of November 9 at the College of Southern Idaho. Those applicants who passed through that phase were given one-on-one interviews with Dell personnel and many were offered jobs. Dell has enough employees to begin its initial classes slated to start in January 2002, and the center is scheduled to open for business in early February. Dell will continue to expand its workforce as demand and qualified applicants increase. Dell representatives expressed their appreciation to Pam Petersen, Carlos Hernandez, Diane Sanchez, and the rest of Magic Valley Job Service for the tremendous effort they put forth to make the initial hiring a success.
- Zions First National Bank is expanding in Twin Falls with a new bank to be located on Blue Lakes Boulevard North across from Chili's Restaurant. This will be their first full-size, full-service branch in Twin Falls. Previously the only Zions Bank branch in Twin Falls was an in-store branch inside Smiths Food King and Drug Center on Addison Avenue East. Zions expects to create five to seven new jobs with the opening of this branch.
- A major landmark store in downtown Twin Falls will be changing names and changing styles. Cain's Home Furnishings will change its name in January when it completes the conversion from an upscale furniture store to a department store. The new store will be named J.Sani. The owner, the English Group, will retire the Cain's Home Furnishings store name with no plans to use it again, but will maintain the legal rights to it. By January, the original building Cain's occupied will house J. Sani's eight stores-within-a-store, each dealing with a different aspect of the home environment. The overhaul of the new store will add 10-15 full- and part-time jobs.

### Jerome, Gooding, Camas, Lincoln, Blaine Counties

- Canyon Rim Collision Repair is a new and expanded service in Jerome that provides all types of collision repair and custom auto body needs. The business is located in the former Canyonside Auto Body Shop at 361 Golf Course Road. The new business, owned by Mike and Nikki Nielson, is a full ser-

vice body shop offering services ranging from providing motor homes with wild graphics to restoring antique and muscle cars. The Neilsons provide full service collision repair, glass work, frame straightening, custom color matching, and insurance claim work. They offer free pickup, delivery, and computerized estimates.

- The Sun Valley-Ketchum Chamber of Commerce has created a new marketing plan designed to offset the softened economy by encouraging visitors, primarily from western markets, to travel to Sun Valley this winter. The combination of the September 11 terrorist attacks and the drought situation has had a negative impact on the area. Sun Valley Ski Resort delayed the traditional Thanksgiving opening due to lack of snow and warm weather which prevented snow making. It is estimated that winter booking for ski packages are down 20-30 percent thus far. To counteract these problems, Sun Valley is initiating a program called "Sun Valley: An American Tradition—Come Play and We'll Pay." This program will feature Sun Valley travel tokens, which are gift certificates that can be redeemed at more than 80 local businesses. Visitors booking stays of at least two nights at participating local lodging properties through Sun Valley Central Reservations will receive a \$25 travel token per person to use during their visit to the community. To fund the promotion, the chamber is redirecting \$63,500 in winter marketing funds from other programs—\$45,000 will be used for travel tokens and the remaining \$18,500 will be used to advertise the promotion.

### Cassia And Minidoka Counties

- The Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce's board elected Carl Hanson, administrator of Minidoka Memorial Hospital, as president for 2002. First Vice-President will be Robert Harris, owner of Century Cinema 5, and Second Vice-President will be Robert Haun, owner of Haun's Hardware. The chamber is planning to continue its business education efforts such as its recent sponsorship of a fraud forum. It also will continue to work on the creation of a health insurance product for small employers in the area.

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# SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in October 2001. The rate was unchanged from September 2001 and one-tenth of a percentage point higher than in October 2000. The area's unemployment rate remained below Idaho's rate of 4.9 percent and below the U.S. rate of 5.4 percent. Southeast Idaho does not have major employment tied to the airline industry nor is it a travel destination location; therefore its economy has not been significantly affected by the September terrorist attacks. Yet the Southeast Idaho economy has slowed, but it is most likely because of the slowing national economy and because of international trade rather than the September event.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* dropped from 33,140 in September 2001 to 33,000 in October 2001. This four-tenths of a percentage point decline was because of seasonal changes, which are normal this time of year. Jobs declined in *Construction* (6.2 percent), *Manufacturing* (1.9 percent), *Services* (4.3 percent), and *Government Administration* (2.0 percent). Although the area experienced warm weather throughout October, construction projects ceased in anticipation of winter and jobs declined by 110 month-over-month. *Manufacturing* experienced a small drop in jobs (50) but fluctuations in the industry are normal. The highest number of job losses occurred in the *Services* industry, which lost 360 jobs in October. Those losses were in *Hotels & Motels*, *Amusement & Recreation*, and *Business Services* as the summer travel and recreation season ended and fluctuations occurred in call centers and temporary staffing services. *Government Administration* dropped 70 jobs in parks maintenance and recreation programs. Seasonal hiring in *Wholesale and Retail Trade* in preparation for the holiday shopping season added 130 jobs, and

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	Oct 2001*	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,490	40,740	40,570	-0.6	-0.2
Unemployment	1,890	1,920	1,860	-1.6	1.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	4.7	4.6		
Total Employment	38,600	38,820	38,710	-0.6	-0.3
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,540	40,550	40,660	0.0	-0.3
Unemployment	1,690	1,660	1,660	1.8	1.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.1	4.1		
Total Employment	38,860	38,890	39,000	-0.1	-0.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	33,000	33,140	33,450	-0.4	-1.3
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,190	4,350	4,540	-3.7	-7.7
Mining & Construction	1,660	1,770	1,680	-6.2	-1.2
Manufacturing	2,530	2,580	2,860	-1.9	-11.5
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	28,810	28,790	28,910	0.1	-0.3
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,750	1,770	1,820	-1.1	-3.8
Wholesale Trade	1,490	1,440	1,460	3.5	2.1
Retail Trade	7,120	7,040	7,360	1.1	-3.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,440	1,450	1,430	-0.7	0.7
Services	7,930	8,290	7,760	-4.1	2.4
Government Administration	3,470	3,540	3,430	-2.0	1.2
Government Education	5,590	5,260	5,650	6.3	-1.1

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

student employment at Idaho State University added 202 jobs, while local schools added another 126 jobs.

Compared to October 2000, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* dropped by 450, a decline of 1.3 percent. Most job reductions are because of the slowing national economy. *Manufacturing* suffered the highest decline, which dropped 330 jobs. Most of those job losses were in *All Other Nondurable Manufacturing*, because of reductions at American MicroSystems, Inc. in Pocatello. Jobs in the other manufacturing sectors appeared close to or above last year's level. The remaining job reductions occurred in *Retail Trade's General Merchandise Stores*, *Food Stores*, and *Eating and Drinking Places* because of store closures and a lack of available workers to fill occasional positions. *Services* experienced the highest growth, adding 170 jobs over the year. Job growth occurred mostly in *Social Services* and *Engineering & Management Services* as programs to assist people in career/job transition grew and research firms added jobs.

## SPECIAL TOPIC

### Holiday Activities Add Jobs (See Charts 1-3 on page 20)

Typically during the holiday shopping season, between October and December, around 300 to 400 jobs are added to the economy. *Wholesale Trade*, *Retail Trade*, and *Services* typically add the most jobs. Hiring gener-

Chart 1: Wholesale Trade Hiring Trends

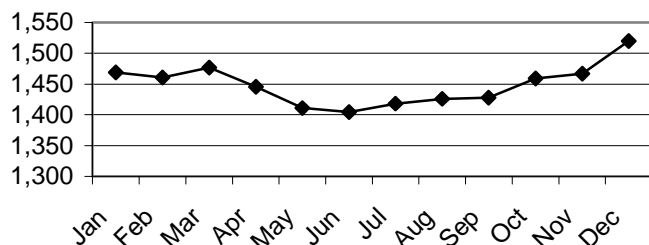


Chart 2: Retail Trade Hiring Trends

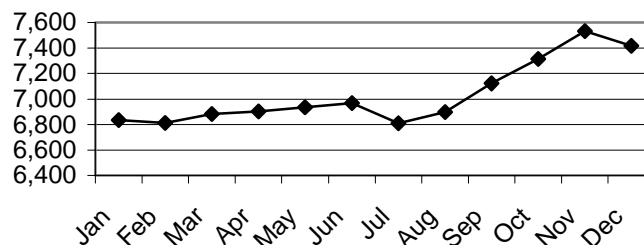
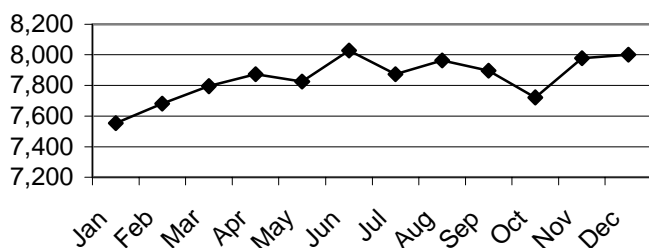


Chart 3: Services Hiring Trends



ally begins in September or October and lasts through the end of the year. Some businesses retain seasonal workers through January for year-end sales and inventory. Jobs in *Transportation*, specifically *Trucking*, generally increase as early as August to transport products to warehouses and stores in preparation for the holiday shopping season. *Wholesale Trade* usually begins to add jobs in October and gradually increases through December. *Retail Trade* begins adding jobs in September and increases through December. The *Services* sector usually adds jobs in November and December. Since these jobs are temporary, and added specifically for handling increased business for the holiday shopping season, they disappear by February.

## AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

*Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.*

### Bannock County

- Astaris' Pocatello facility (formerly FMC) closed in mid-December. The closure idled nearly 40 years of elemental phosphorus manufacturing at the facility and eliminated 315 jobs in the Pocatello area.
- Johnson Family Chiropractic opened at 2745 Pole Line Road in Pocatello. The business offers chiropractic care including X-rays, physiotherapy, school and Scout physicals, and nutritional supplements. Dr. Johnson has a special interest in infants, pregnancy, and sports injuries.

- A new real estate office, The Home Connection, opened at 850 East Clark Street in Pocatello. Owner/broker Barb Wood has been in the real estate business in Pocatello for ten years.
- Jill M Horrocks, Ph.D., has opened a private marriage and family therapy practice in Pocatello. The office is located at 1246 Yellowstone Avenue, Suite C-3.
- Grover Electric and Plumbing Supply in Chubbuck closed. The closure eliminated approximately 15 jobs.

### Bingham County

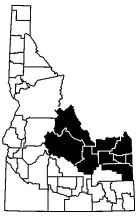
- Only \$1 opened at the Riverside Plaza in Blackfoot. The 10,000-square-foot store features a wide variety of merchandise, and everything in the store costs \$1 or less. The store employs approximately 15 people.
- C-A-L Ranch began site preparation for its new store in Blackfoot. The new store will be twice the size of Blackfoot's current C-A-L Ranch store at approximately 30,000-square-feet. The new store will be a part of the new Blackfoot Marketplace where as many as five additional businesses could be added. Opening of the new store is projected for late spring of 2002. Ten more employees should be added to the current staff of 15.

### Franklin County

- A dollar store, 4 Quarters, opened on State Street in Preston. The store is owned and operated by Doris and Doug Stuart of Weston.
- Sage Brush Auto opened at 1524 South State Street in Preston. The business specializes in repairs of cars, trucks, and farm equipment. Owner Brent Nelson has over 30 years of experience in automobile and diesel repairs.

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# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

October's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) decreased two-tenths of a percentage point from September 2001. Currently at 3.3 percent, the LMA includes Jefferson County at 2.8 percent, Bonneville County at 2.9 percent, Butte County at 3.2 percent, and Bingham County at 4.3 percent. All the counties showed an unemployment decrease for the month with the exception of Butte County, which increased three-tenths of a percentage point because of recent layoffs at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). A comparison to the same month a year before shows that the LMA decreased two-tenths of a percentage point as each county decreased with the exception of Bingham which increased three-tenths of a percentage point. Bingham County's rate is usually affected in the fall months as warehouses and processing plants shut down for annual maintenance of facilities, but harvest time (which is the main variable for layoff times) fluctuates each year depending on crop maturation and weather.

Most of the other counties in the Northeast area that are not included in the LMA saw an unemployment rate decrease over the month with the exception of Fremont County, which experienced an increase of three-tenths of a percentage point. All of these counties showed decreases on a year-over-year comparison. These five counties include Clark (3.3 percent), Custer (5.4 percent), Fremont (5.5 percent), Lemhi (5.9 percent), Madison (1.7 percent), and Teton (2.0 percent). Agricultural activity and the return of students to school accounted for most of the monthly fluctuations while a focus on economic development in the rural areas has helped bring down the rates from a year ago. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, decreased three-tenths of a percentage

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	Oct 2001*	Sept 2001	Oct 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	83,550	82,690	80,200	1.0	4.2
Unemployment	2,720	2,880	2,790	-5.6	-2.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3%	3.5%	3.5%		
Total Employment	80,830	79,810	77,410	1.3	4.4
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	84,880	84,180	81,470	0.8	4.2
Unemployment	2,270	3,050	2,310	-25.6	-1.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7%	3.6%	2.8%		
Total Employment	82,600	81,130	79,160	1.8	4.3
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	63,890	63,830	62,860	0.1	1.6
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	10,280	10,370	9,280	-0.9	10.8
Mining & Construction	5,240	5,330	4,170	-1.7	25.7
Manufacturing	5,040	5,040	5,110	0.0	-1.4
Food Processing	2,610	2,520	2,660	3.6	-1.9
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	410	460	530	-10.9	-22.6
All Other Manufacturing	2,020	2,060	1,920	-1.9	5.2
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	53,610	53,460	53,580	0.3	0.1
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,430	2,400	2,390	1.3	1.7
Wholesale Trade	5,990	5,850	6,000	2.4	-0.2
Retail Trade	11,160	11,220	11,630	-0.5	-4.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,900	1,890	1,880	0.5	1.1
Services	21,490	21,770	21,290	-1.3	0.9
Government Administration	5,600	5,790	5,180	-3.3	8.1
Government Education	5,040	4,540	5,210	11.0	-3.3
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

point from September 2001 and from October 2000 to a current rate of 3.0 percent.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* (jobs by place of work) increased by 60 over the month for a total of 63,890 jobs in the LMA. *Goods-Producing Industries* decreased 90 jobs, all in *Construction*. Both *Heavy Construction* and *Special Trade Contractors* sectors equally contributed to this decrease. Weather in middle to late fall generally halts most outdoor construction jobs. This October remained unseasonably warm, prolonging construction activity. The drop in jobs over the month was mild in comparison to other years. Larger drops in this industry will come over the next several months.

*Service-Producing Industries* increased by 150 jobs over the month. *Wholesale Trade* (140 jobs) grew in *Nondurables* as crops were harvested and the new season started. *Government Education* increased by 500 jobs as schools staffed for their needs. Small increases were seen in *Transportation (Trucking and Warehousing)* and *Finance (Depository and Non-depository Institutions)*. *Services* decreased by 280 jobs (80 in *Hotels & Other Lodging* and 130 in *Misc. Amusement, Recreation Serv.*) as the tourist and recreation season came to a

seasonal end. *Government Administration* lost 190 jobs (*Local Administration*) as many temporary jobs ended. *Retail Trade* experienced an overall decrease of 60 jobs with equal decreases in *Building Materials & Garden Supplies* and *Eating & Drinking Places*, and a slight decrease in *Automotive Dealers*. These decreases were offset somewhat by an increase in *General Merchandise*. Most of this activity came as a result of normal buying patterns in the economy based on the time of year.

Looking year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,030 jobs—*Goods-Producing Industries* increased by 1,000 and *Service-Producing Industries* increased by 30. *Construction* was by far the largest contributor to the increase as *Special Trade Contractors* (650), *Heavy Construction* (270), and *Building* (150) all saw increases. The main loss in *Manufacturing* stemmed from the *Industrial Machinery* sector as agricultural-related businesses have taken some hard hits over the past few years; this past season was especially hard for some. An overabundance of potatoes produced last season lowered the overall prices and lack of water, along with energy buyouts, kept some farmers from growing crops this year. *Retail Trade* experienced the largest loss (470) as *Eating & Drinking* decreased 430. A few establishments shut down over the year while trimming of the workforce has occurred in others. *Services* showed an increase as the 650 jobs lost in *Engineering & Management* (from restructuring at the INEEL) were offset by increases in *Business Services* (240), *Health Services* (210), and *Social Services* (230). *Government Administration* increased the most in the *Service-Producing Industries* with the *Federal Government* adding over 470 jobs.

## SPECIAL TOPIC

### Construction Activity

According to Wells Fargo's *Idaho Construction Report*, construction activity is up in the area. Cities considered for this section include Blackfoot, Idaho Falls, Ammon, Rexburg, Rigby, Salmon, and St. Anthony. Results show that August 2001's new residential permit value at over \$6 million—more than double the August 2000 value of \$3 million. A substantial part of the increase was in Ammon, a town bordering Idaho Falls to the east, which surpassed the 2000 value at over \$3 million. Construction activity began when the Edwards 14-Plex Theatres on Hitt Road opened several years ago, and many housing subdivisions appeared in Ammon over the year as a result. The permit value accounts for 72 new dwelling units in 2001 compared to 40 in 2000. New nonresidential (commercial) permit value shows a drastic increase from \$550,000 in August 2000 to more than \$7.6 million for August 2001 value. Permit values in Rexburg increased over \$6 million (BYU-Idaho expansions). Idaho Falls permit values also increased from \$243,000 to \$937,000.

Since a one-month period provides only a small picture and can be somewhat skewed with timing of requests and issuance of permits, a cumulative eight-month focus follows. A total of 519 new dwelling units in 2001 surpassed the 373 units in 2000 units—a 39.1 percent increase. New residential permit values increased 39.8 percent to the most recent value of almost \$40 million. New nonresidential permit values also increased 31.8 percent over the year to a current \$26 million. Notable increases in residential dwelling were seen in Rexburg (\$8 million), Ammon (\$5 million), and Idaho Falls (\$2 million). Nonresidential increases were heavily noted in Rexburg (\$8 million) and Idaho Falls (\$700,000) with a large decrease seen in Ammon (\$3 million). Most residential growth in Ammon was seen in 1999 and 2000 with the opening of the Edwards 14-Plex Theatres. There hasn't been much activity in 2001. These construction figures support the increases that have been noted in *Construction* jobs over the past two years.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) main contractor, Bechtel BWXT, Idaho LLC, just conducted its most recent set of layoffs (around 125 workers) following an offer of early retirements and voluntary separations earlier this year. The separations were originally calculated to be around 1,200 workers, but ended up being roughly 750 since cleanup goals still need to be met. The separations were part of a restructuring plan brought on by anticipated flat funding in the national environmental management budget.

When Bechtel BWXT, Idaho LLC took over as prime contractor of the INEEL, it set a goal of helping the surrounding counties and the state with economic development. The goal was to help generate 2,400 jobs within five years. Bechtel just announced that it exceeded its goal for job creation in Idaho in only two years. Many of the new jobs (2,433 in all) were in customer service centers, with Center Partners and Tele-Servicing Innovations being some of the larger benefactors able to expand their workforce with the funding. Most of these jobs were in northern Idaho, although the majority of the money spent was on agencies and companies that had headquarters in the seven counties located nearest the INEEL. Chris Hertz, INEEL's economic development director, is hopeful that 600 more jobs will be created over the next three years. Focus on retraining workers in their current workplace is just as important as their job creation goals. In a general outlook, the all-encompassing goal is to work in conjunction with other

*(Continued on page 26)*

### IDAHO EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SURVEY

Full-time employees in Idaho are nearly twice as likely to be offered benefits as part-time employees, according to a recent survey conducted by the Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL). The size of a business and the type of industry are also important factors in determining whether employees receive benefits and which benefits are offered.

**Table 1: Results of State of Idaho Benefit Survey**

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Percent Full-Time	Percent Part-Time
<b>Raises Given</b>	1521	750	92.7%	67.0%
<b>Raises Planned</b>	1316	653	80.2%	58.4%
<b>Paid Leave</b>				
Paid Holidays	1421	404	86.6%	36.1%
Paid Sick Leave	1000	294	61.0%	26.3%
Paid Vacation	1508	362	92.0%	32.4%
Paid Personal Leave	405	50	24.7%	4.5%
Paid Maternity Leave	570	241	34.8%	21.5%
Paid Paternity Leave	290	38	17.7%	3.4%
Paid Funeral Leave	659	106	40.2%	9.5%
Paid Jury Duty Leave	892	303	54.4%	27.1%
<b>Insurance</b>				
Health Insurance	1337	306	81.5%	27.3%
Dependent Health Insurance	1022	263	62.3%	23.5%
Dental Plan	936	266	57.1%	23.8%
Vision Plan	721	231	44.0%	20.6%
Life Insurance	805	248	49.1%	22.2%
Disability Insurance	587	233	35.8%	20.8%
Long-Term Disability	341	30	20.8%	2.7%
<b>Retirement</b>				
Retirement Plan Offered	1047	497	63.8%	44.4%
Defined Contribution	688	420	42.0%	37.5%
Defined Benefit	213	62	13.0%	5.5%
<b>Misc Benefits</b>				
Wellness Program	452	217	27.6%	19.4%
Child Care	28	12	1.7%	1.1%
Profit Sharing	243	47	14.8%	4.2%
Employee Discounts	387	195	23.6%	17.4%
Relocation Assistance	246	11	15.0%	1.0%
Uniform/Tool Allowance	191	52	11.6%	4.6%
Telecommuting	209	30	12.7%	2.7%
Flex-Time	216	113	13.2%	10.1%
Other	29	6	1.8%	0.5%

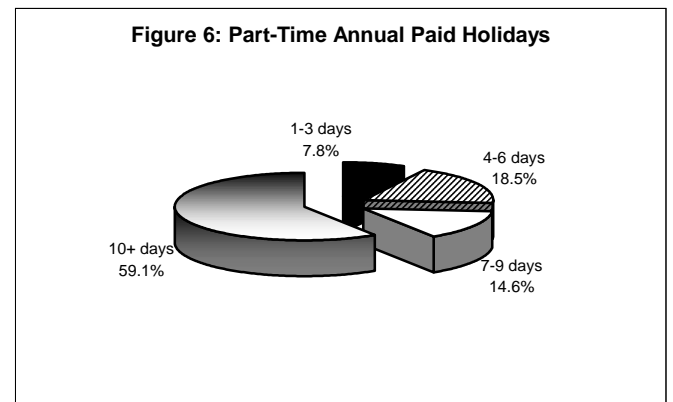
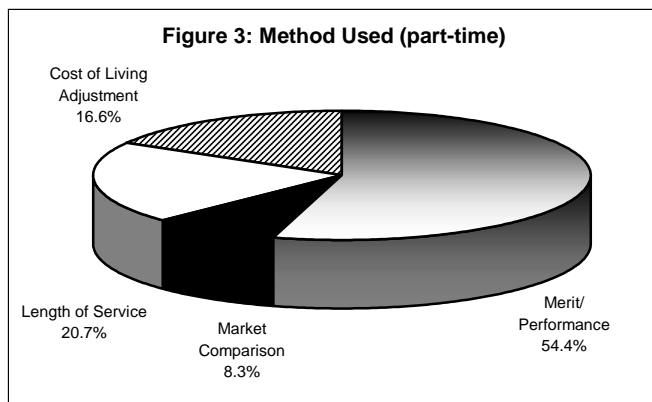
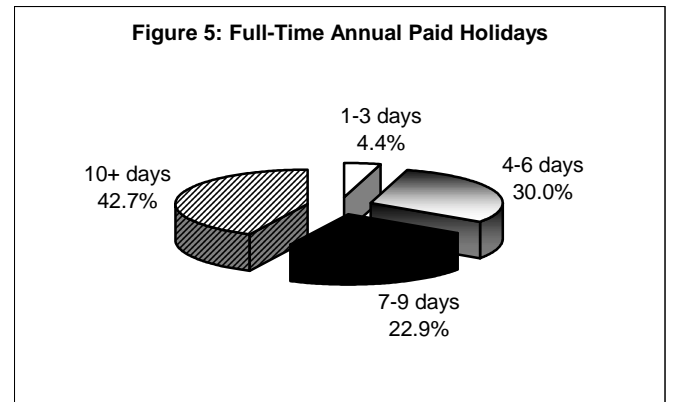
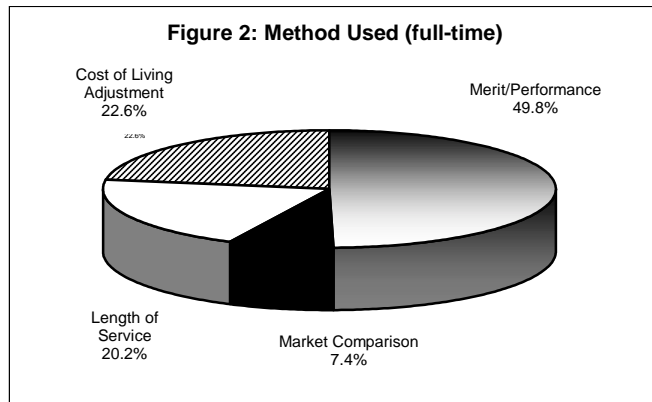
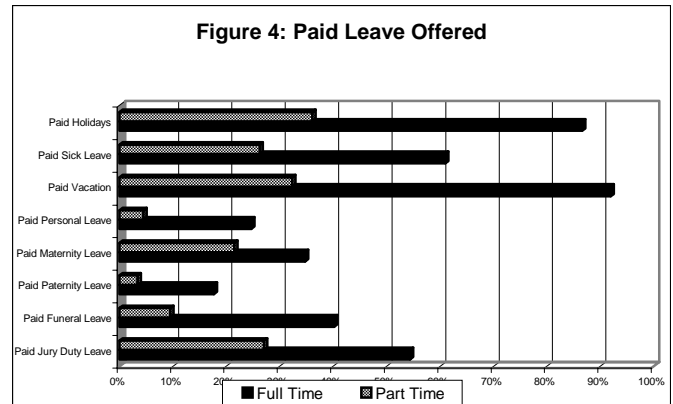
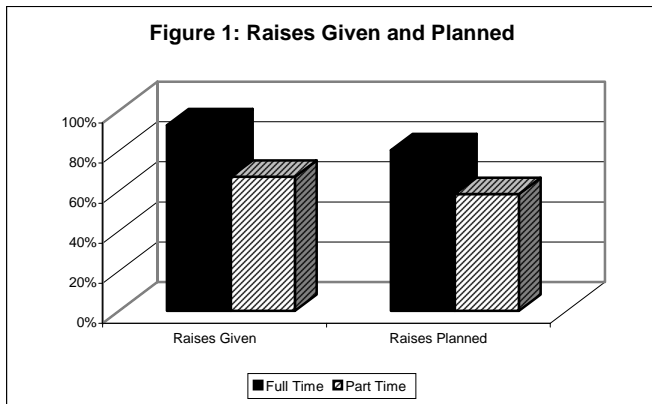
In August 2001, IDOL mailed a survey to 5,172 employers randomly selected from a stratified sample. Surveyed employers varied by number of employees, geographic region, industry, and type of ownership. The majority of businesses surveyed were privately owned, but some local, state, and federal government offices were also included. Surveys were returned by 2,728 employers, a response rate of 52.7 percent. Of those responses, only 2,380 of the employers had employees working for them. Of those 2,380 responses, 1,640 had at least one full-time employee, and 1,119 had at least one part-time employee.

For this survey, full-time employers are those who responded to the survey and reported having at least one full-time employee. Part-time employers are those who reported having at least one part-time employee. These two employer categories certainly overlap, as many employers have both full-time and part-time employees, but employers were asked to respond to each question regarding their full-time employees and their part-time employees as separate groups. When a percentage of full-time employees is given, it refers to the proportion of full-time employers surveyed who offered the benefit in question to their full-time employees. Percentages for part-time employees refer to the proportion of part-time employers surveyed who offered the benefit in question to their part-time employees. Survey results do not indicate the actual percentages of Idaho's labor force receiving each benefit. Table 1 shows the overall results for the survey.

Survey results for individual benefit categories are summarized below. A detailed analysis of benefits by region, industry, and business size will be published separately by the Idaho Department of Labor by the end of 2001. If you would like a copy of the detailed benefit survey, please email Jennifer Pirtle, Southwest Idaho Regional Labor Economist, at [jpirtle@labor.state.id.us](mailto:jpirtle@labor.state.id.us), or call her at 895-6642.

### PAY RAISES

The majority of firms reported giving raises to their employees in the past year, with 92.7 percent of employers giving pay raises to full-time employees, and 67.0 percent of employers giving raises to part-time employees. Also, 80.2 percent of the employers planned to give raises to full-time employees within the 12 months following the survey, and 58.4 percent planned to offer raises to part-time employees. Figure 1 (page 23) shows the percentages of full- and part-time employers giving raises to their employees. Figures 2 and 3 (page 23) show the methods used for determining raises. Many employers give raises based on a number of factors, so some employers may be counted more than once.



## PAID LEAVE

Firms were asked whether they provide their employees with paid time off for a variety of reasons including holidays, sick leave, vacation, personal leave, maternity leave, paternity leave, funeral leave, and jury duty leave. Figure 4 shows the types of paid leave offered by Idaho employers to full- and part-time workers.

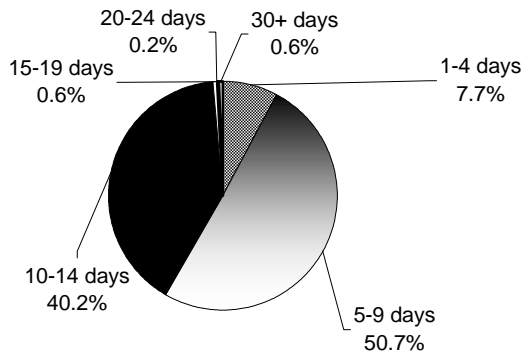
**Holidays.** More than 86.5 percent of employers give paid holidays to their full-time employees, and 36.1 percent give paid holidays to their part-time employees. The total number of paid holidays varies by employer. According to the survey, 42.7 percent of full-time employers and 59.1 percent of part-time employers provided ten or more paid holidays per year. See Figures 5 and 6 for a breakdown of the number of paid holidays offered per year.

**Sick Leave.** Sixty-one percent of the employers surveyed offered paid sick leave to their full-time employees, while only 26.3 percent offered paid sick leave to part-time employees. The number of paid sick leave days available to workers depends on a variety of factors including length of service, industry, and employer size. Figures 7 and 8 (page 24) illustrate the number of annual sick leave days offered to full- and part-time workers in Idaho.

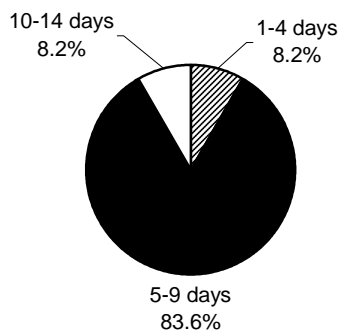
**Vacation Leave.** Ninety-two percent of the employers that responded to the survey offered some sort of paid vacation to their employees. The number of days offered varies, with the strongest determinant of how much paid vacation leave was offered being the employee's length of service. Figures 9 and 10 (page 24) illustrate the number of annual paid vacation days offered to full-time and part-time employees based on length of service.



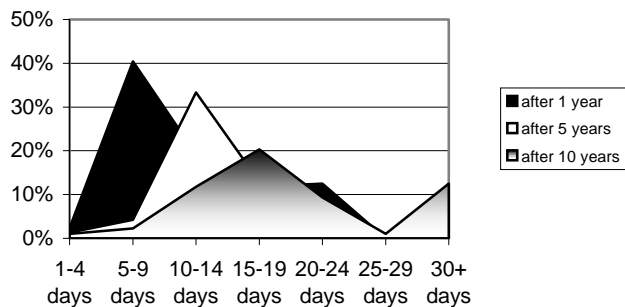
**Figure 7: Full-Time Sick Leave**



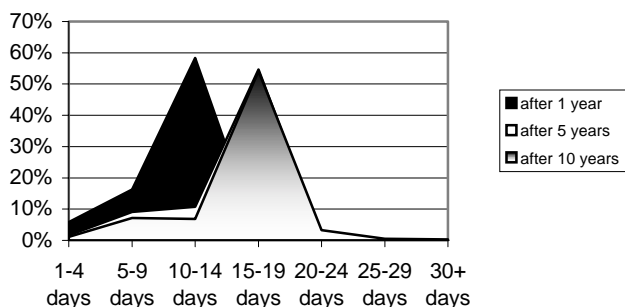
**Figure 8: Part-Time Sick Leave**



**Figure 9: Paid Vacation (Full Time)**



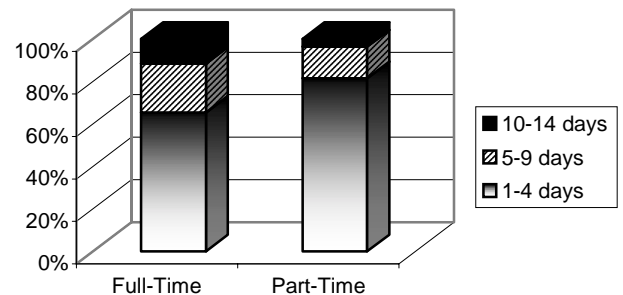
**Figure 10: Paid Vacation (Part Time)**



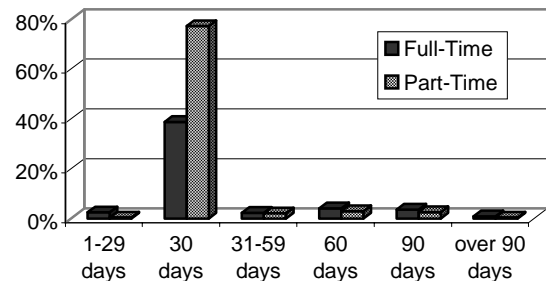
**Personal Leave.** A number of employers combine paid personal leave with vacation and/or sick leave or some other sort of paid leave, so the percentages of employers who offer this benefit are significantly less than for other benefits. Paid personal leave is offered to full-time employees by 24.7 percent of employers, and to part-time employees by 4.5 percent of employers. Figure 11 shows the number of paid personal leave days offered per year by Idaho employers. Most employers offer less than four days of paid personal leave regardless of employment status.

**Paid Maternity/Paternity Leave.** Paid maternity/paternity leave is offered by a small number of employers. Most employers offer some type of maternity/paternity leave, but that leave is often unpaid. Of the employers surveyed, 34.8 percent offered paid maternity leave to full-time employees, and 21.5 percent offered paid maternity leave to part-time employees.

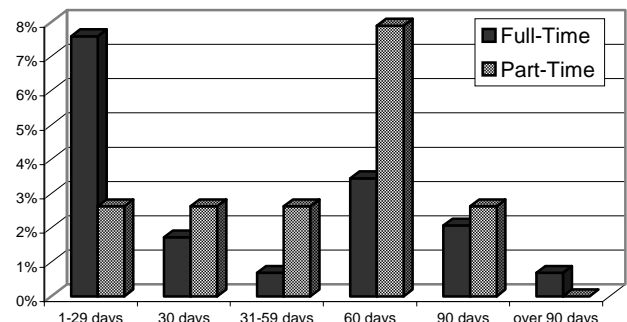
**Figure 11: Paid Personal Leave**



**Figure 12: Paid Maternity Leave**



**Figure 13: Paid Paternity Leave**



Paid paternity leave was offered to full-time employees by 17.7 percent of employers; only 3.4 percent of the employers offered paid paternity leave to part-time employees. Figures 12 and 13 (page 24) show the number of maternity/paternity leave days that employers offer to their employees.

**Paid Funeral Leave.** A number of employers offer some form of funeral leave to their employees, but it may be unpaid or accounted for in vacation leave, sick leave, or personal leave. Of the employers surveyed, 40.2 percent offer paid funeral leave to full-time employees, and 9.5 percent offer it to part-time employees.

**Paid Jury Duty Leave.** Of the employers surveyed, 54.4 percent offer paid jury duty leave to full-time employees, while 27.1 percent offer paid jury duty leave to part-time employees.

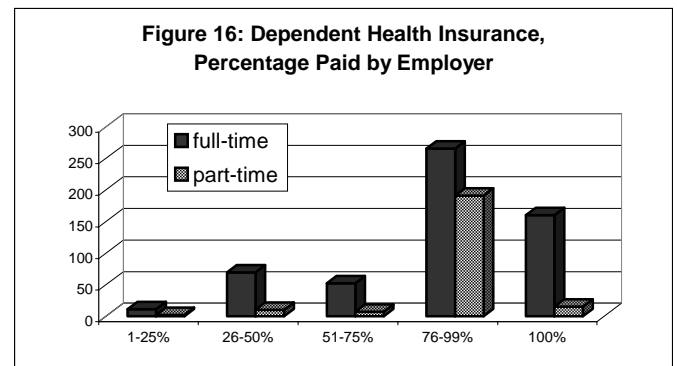
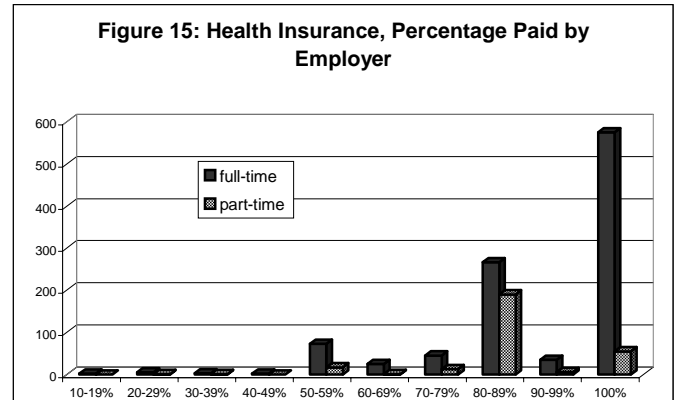
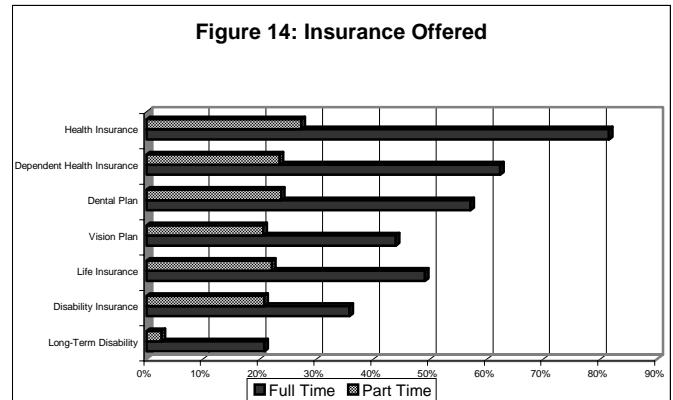
## INSURANCE

Firms were asked whether they offer their employees certain types of insurance including health insurance, dependent health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, life insurance, short-term disability insurance, and long-term disability insurance. Figure 14 shows the different types of insurance offered by Idaho employers to full-time and part-time workers.

**Health Insurance.** In terms of health insurance, 81.5 percent of employers offer health insurance benefits to full-time workers, while 27.3 percent offer such benefits to part-time workers. This does not mean that more than 8 out of every ten full-time employees have health insurance; it simply means that health insurance is offered by more than 8 out of every ten employers to their full-time employees. Figure 15 shows the percentage of the insurance premium paid by the employer for health insurance. Regardless of employment status, most employers offering health insurance pay between 80 and 100 percent of the premium.

**Dependent Health Insurance.** Dependent health insurance is offered by 62.3 percent of employers to their full-time employees, and by 23.5 percent to their part-time employees. Figure 16 shows the breakdown of dependent health insurance paid by the employer. The majority of employers pay for approximately 80 percent of the dependent health insurance premiums, regardless of employment status.

**Dental Plan.** Nearly 6 of every ten Idaho employers (57.1 percent) offer some type of dental plan to their full-time employees. Part-time employees are offered a dental plan by 23.8 percent of employers. Figure 17 (page 26) shows the percentage of the premium paid by employers who offer dental plans to employees. Regardless of employment status, most employers who offer dental plans pay more than 50 percent of the premium.

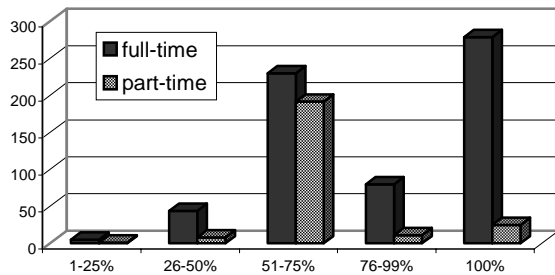


**Vision Plan.** Vision insurance is offered to full-time employees by 44 percent of employers, and to part-time employees by 20.6 percent of employers. Some employers mentioned that their vision plans are part of their overall health benefits package, not a separate benefit. Figure 18 (page 26) shows the percentage of the premiums paid by employers who offer vision plans to both full- and part-time employees.

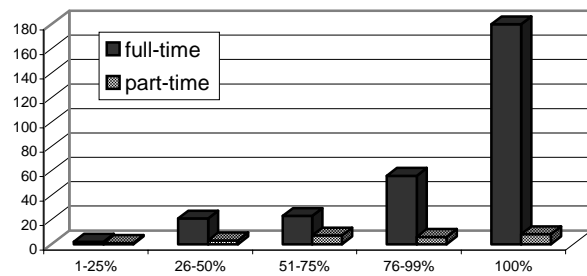
**Life Insurance.** Almost half of all employers offer life insurance to full-time employees (49.1 percent), and 22.2 percent offer these policies to part-time employees.

**Disability Insurance.** Short-term disability insurance is offered to full-time employees by 35.8 percent of employers; long-term disability insurance is offered to full-time employees by 20.8 percent of employers. Part-time employees are offered short-term disability insurance by 20.8 percent of employers; part-time employees are offered long-term disability insurance by 2.7 percent of employers.

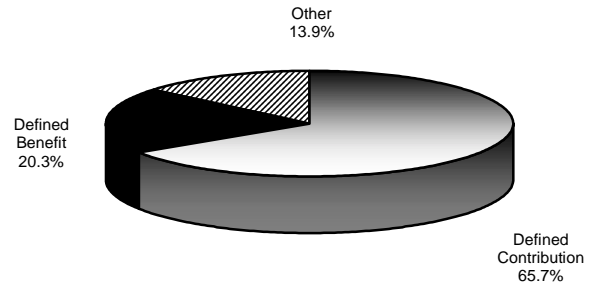
**Figure 17: Dental Plan, Percentage Paid by Employer**



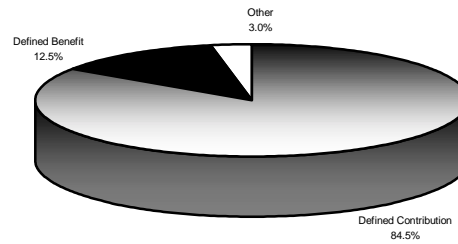
**Figure 18: Vision Plan, Percentage Paid by Employer**



**Figure 19: Retirement Plans Offered (full-time)**



**Figure 20: Retirement Plans Offered (part-time)**



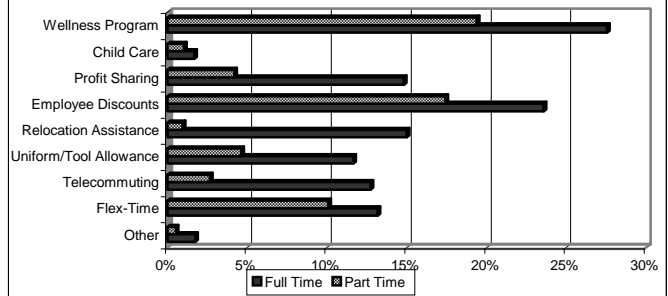
## RETIREMENT

Nearly sixty-four percent (63.8) of employers surveyed offered some type of retirement plan to full-time employees, and 44.4 percent of employers offered a retirement plan to part-time employees. Figures 19 and 20 illustrate the type of retirement benefits offered to full-and part-time employees.

## MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS

A number of other benefits are offered to employees, depending on the type and size of the business. The most common benefit in this category was an employee wellness program, followed by employee discounts. Figure 21 shows the percentages of employers offering these miscellaneous benefits to full-time and part-time workers.

**Figure 21: Miscellaneous Benefits**



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## Northeast Idaho—(Continued from page 20)

economic development organizations and the universities in Idaho to strengthen Idaho's economy.

Evergreen Recycling International, located in Alfred Station, New York, just signed an exclusive license with the INEEL to commercialize technology. Technology patented by the INEEL in conjunction with the Idaho Accelerator Center from Idaho State University uses high-energy X-rays to decompose hazardous organic compounds into harmless components of water, carbon dioxide, and salt. An accelerator speeds up electrons and crashes them into a target to give off energy as X-rays. Once the accelerator is turned off, the materials or liquids that have been treated are no longer radioactive, thus the term "green radiation" is used to indicate the process can be used for the purpose of safe environmental cleanup. Once the INEEL patented the technology, it became known to the commercial world and Evergreen took interest. Using this process, Evergreen sees potential for industries, utilities, and municipalities to dechlorinate oil and sell it as heating oil or fuel for electricity generation.

### CHC Funding Helps the LMA with Improvements

CHC Foundation was established with money gener-

ated from the sale of the old Sacred Heart/Community/Parkview Hospital on South Boulevard. The foundation distributes grants throughout eastern Idaho (the area the hospital once served) from interest the money generates. The money is granted every spring and fall to support medical, social, recreational, cultural, and educational needs. The following is a list of this fall's recipients of grants more than \$5,000:

♦ Idaho Falls Family YMCA .....	\$100,000
♦ Bonneville County Historical Society .....	\$300,00
♦ Bonneville School District.....	\$45,000
♦ Lemhi County Crisis Intervention .....	\$56,000
♦ A.R.M. Ministries .....	\$35,000
♦ Targhee Regional Public Transit Authority ...	\$46,000
♦ Upper Valley Free Clinic .....	\$13,484
♦ Clark County .....	\$10,000
♦ EISSA .....	\$10,000

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## State Overview—(Continued from page 4)

dustry group: *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components, excluding Computers*. Together, these industries lost 300 jobs in October month-over-month, which is the same job loss level from October 2000. As the nation's economy rebounds, business investment picks up, and international trade issues ease, Idaho's electronics industry should return to a growth mode.

Idaho's *Services-Producing Industries* lost 1,200 jobs in October month-over-month. Job gains in *Government* were not enough to offset losses in *Trade and Services*. Year-over-year changes were positive as the *Services-Producing Industries* added 2,800 jobs for a 0.6 percent growth rate. Month-over-month job losses in *Retail Trade* totaled 1,800 jobs with *Eating & Drinking Places* accounting for most of the loss with 1,600 fewer jobs. Jobs in the *Services* industries were down 2,700 from September. *Hotels & Other Lodging Places* lost 900 jobs and *Amusement and Recreation Services* lost 1,300 jobs. Some employers in

these three industries cited a downturn in tourism and conventions/meetings business as the cause for the job losses. Employment levels in these three industries were about the same as they were a year ago.

*State and Local Government Education* combined had a 4,400 jobs increase in October month-over-month. This rather large increase from September to October is not uncommon in this particular employment statistics series. Schools often wait until after school starts to adjust staffing--especially teacher aides, bus drivers, and other support staff--to match enrollment needs. These additional hires often occur after the reference week for the employer survey and, thus, are not included until the next month. The year-over-year change in public education jobs is more indicative of the employment trend.

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## YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Next month's issue of *Idaho Employment* will be a 2001 recap of the year. It will include projected data and analysis for the State and the six labor market areas. The issue will be available in mid-January.

As a preview to next month's reviews of the year, we've included a copy of a poem written by former Boise State University economics professor John Mitchell, which he read at Boise Metro 2001 Economic Forum November 12, 2001. Mr. Mitchell currently is an Economist for the Western Region for U.S. Bancorp. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

### 2001-2002

*By John Mitchell*

The century opened with growth estimates trimmed,  
Weak investment, fewer jobs, and portfolios that slimmed.  
Saint Al responded with rate cuts galore,  
The futures markets expect there will be more.

Fiscal policy tools shifted late in the spring,  
A decade of rate cuts and checks took wing.  
The hoped for rebound was dashed in September,  
In a horrible day that we will long remember.

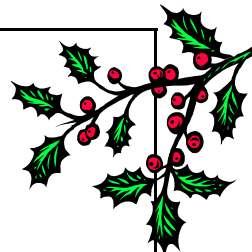
No airplanes, closed malls, a new spirit in this nation,  
Disengagement, and delay to comprehend the situation.  
No growth in the third—down again in the last,  
The weakness is broad with bad news coming fast.

More rate cuts, less inventory, and things that wear out,  
Lower debt loads and time will turn this about.  
There have been 32 business cycles since 1854,  
And we can be very confident there will be some more.

2002 will improve as it ages,  
The upturn will emerge in uneven stages.  
Early positive signals will into data transform,  
At a pace that is trying where growth is the norm.

Unknowns abound as we enter the new year,  
From the Khyber to the Post Office we have new things to fear.  
The resilience of the nation, and our freedom, its core,  
Mean that this cycle shall pass before we meet once more.

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The Idaho Department of Labor wishes all of our *Idaho Employment* readers a very happy holiday season. We hope the year 2001 has been joyful and prosperous for you and your families!

And thank you to all of those who work hard to bring this newsletter to the citizens of Idaho each month.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

**Agriculture Employment:** Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

**Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours:** The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Average Weekly Earnings:** Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

**Civilian Labor Force:** A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

**Covered Employers:** Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

**Durable Goods:** Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

**Employed:** Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

**Initial Claim:** Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

**Labor Market Area (LMA):** An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

**Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA):** An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

**Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment:** Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

**Nondurable Goods:** Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

**Unemployed:** Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

**Unemployment Insurance:** Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

**Unemployment Rate:** The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

**Weekly Benefit Amount:** The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

**Weeks Claimed:** The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

**Weeks Compensated:** The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.





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